



NEMT Waiver Amendment: Public and Tribal Comment Summary

The state is requesting to continue waiving Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for members under the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) through December 31, 2016. The state gave public and Tribal notice in April 2015, which included a 30-day public comment period of April 24 through May 24, 2015. A 30-day Tribal comment period ran from April 16 through May 16, 2015. The state received a total of five public comments. No Tribal comments were received.

None of the public comments supported extension of the NEMT. A summary of these comments is provided below:

- The majority of the comments expressed the need for NEMT as a critical service that plays an essential role in helping the most vulnerable population access necessary healthcare.
- References were made to historical data that supports the need for NEMT for low-income individuals and that transportation barriers can lead to poor outcomes and increased costs overall.
- Some comments indicated the study revealed significant differences between the comparison groups (IHAWP and traditional Medicaid).

Summary reflects comments from the following organizations:

1. Child and Family Policy Center
2. Peoples Community Health Clinic
3. Community Transportation Association of America
4. Iowa's Olmstead Consumer Task Force
5. Iowa Primary Care Association

Additional comments were shared by individuals during the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) meeting on May 28, 2015. The majority of individuals expressed concerns that some members will have unmet needs for transportation to medical visits and were not in support of extending the NEMT waiver.