

Alternate Care Site (ACS) COVID-19 Flexibility Ending for Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribally Owned/Operated (638) Facilities

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This memo outlines the ending of the COVID-19 flexibility for the use of Alternate Care Sites (ACS) established by Indian Health Service (IHS) or Tribally owned/operated (638) facilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

In alignment with the end of the COVID-19 PHE, the use of Alternative Care Sites (ACS) established by Indian Health Service (IHS) or Tribally owned/operated 638 facilities will end on dates of service starting May 11, 2023. All services and reimbursements related to this flexibility will be discontinued in conjunction with the end of the PHE and the rollback of [the CMS 1135 Blanket Waiver](#). This applies to all AHCCCS reimbursement of IHS and 638 facilities for services rendered at an ACS.

For more information about the ACS flexibility, please see the [the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Fact Sheet for State and Local Governments - CMS Programs & Payment for Care in Hospital Alternate Care Sites](#), as well as [the Biden Administration's announcement](#) of its intention to end the national public health emergency declarations on May 11, 2023.