



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

## (Approval of Proposed Sepsis Markers, Causes and Mortality Study)

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- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council, and the Indian Health Service have worked together to identify health problems in the community and raise the level of health of all residents of the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe in conjunction with Whiteriver Hospital of the Indian Health Service has monitored and responded to a variety of medical conditions to improve the community's health and quality of life; and
- WHEREAS,** Sepsis, an dysregulated host response to infection, is an extensive burden on healthcare systems globally and ranks as one of the leading causes of death in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the mortality rates for sepsis are far higher in rural settings such as the Fort Apache Indian Reservation due to missed diagnosis thus leading to delays in providing patients appropriate standard of care for this severe life-threatening illness; and
- WHEREAS,** infections, the cause of sepsis, occur at disproportionately high rates among adults in the WMA community and there exists no information regarding rates of sepsis at the Whiteriver Hospital but there are concerns that it occurs more frequently than it is identified; and
- WHEREAS,** the Whiteriver Service Unit of the Indian Health Service is requesting approval for the following retrospective chart review:
1. to determine the prevalence of sepsis amongst the hospital admissions and outside hospital transfers from the Whiteriver Service Unit Emergency Department during the calendar year of 2018; and
  2. to determine the most common causes of sepsis during this time frame; and
  3. to characterize the markers that identify patients with sepsis in the WMA community including information regarding sex, vital sign abnormalities and laboratory data; and
  4. to determine the mortality rates for sepsis at the WRSU ED in comparison to the mortality rates in other rural settings; and
- WHEREAS,** When analyses are complete, IHS will present all data to the Tribal Council and Health Board for feedback and discussion of recommended next steps for diagnostics and treatment; and

**Resolution No. 04-2019-82**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves the retrospective chart review of sepsis markers, causes and mortality in a resource-limited setting proposed by Whiteriver Service Unit Indian Health Service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **APRIL 24, 2019** duly adopted by a vote of **EIGHT** for, **ONE** against, and **ONE** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

	5/8/19		5/8/2019
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Tribal Chairwoman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date