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# Oklahoma Health Care Authority



## §1115(a) SoonerCare Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request

**Project Number: 11-W-00048/6**

**Submitted**  
April 25, 2014

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Oklahoma's single-state Medicaid agency, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA), operates Medicaid, known as the §1115(a) SoonerCare Choice Research and Demonstration Waiver, which was initially approved in 1995. The SoonerCare Choice demonstration utilizes an enhanced Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) delivery system that furnishes a medical home for qualified members. OHCA contracts directly with medical home primary care providers throughout the State to provide accessible, quality health care services.

As OHCA nears the end of state fiscal year (SFY) 2014, it can be determined that the Medicaid agency, as well as the State, faces a financial deficit going into SFY 2015. OHCA received notification from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in October 2013, that Oklahoma's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) will decrease 2.7 percent in federal funds, effective October 1, 2014. Concurrently, the State prepared its budget for SFY 2015, and, in the Governor's State of the State Address, most agencies, including the OHCA, received a 5 percent reduction in appropriated funds due to Oklahoma's budget shortfall. OHCA is expected to receive the final appropriation figure from the State Legislature in May estimating between a 6.5 percent and 10 percent total reduction.

Due to the budgetary climate, OHCA amends the SoonerCare Choice demonstration by adding a group to the *Eligibility Exclusions* list, STC #22.

In addition to this amendment request, OHCA would like to clarify the language in STC #26, *SoonerCare Benefits*.

The State seeks an amendment approval from CMS by June 30, 2014, in order to implement the proposed changes by July 1, 2014.

## **II. PROPOSED CHANGES**

OHCA proposes the following changes to the 2013-2015 Special Terms and Conditions (STC).

1. OHCA amends STC #22, by adding the following persons to the Eligibility Exclusions list:

- Individuals with other creditable coverage.

2. In STC #26, *SoonerCare Benefits*, OHCA clarifies the language relating to the number of PCP visits and specialty visits a SoonerCare Choice member may receive. SoonerCare Choice members receive benefits covered under the State Plan, with one exception. OHCA clarifies that under the demonstration, members receive unlimited, medically necessary visits with their PCP and up to four specialty visits per month.

While this has always been the benefit for SoonerCare Choice members, OHCA clarifies this further in the STCs in order to appropriately represent the SoonerCare Choice benefits. OHCA proposes the following STC #26 language:

- All demonstration participants except those receiving Insure Oklahoma benefits receive SoonerCare Choice benefits. SoonerCare Choice benefits are the benefits covered under the State Plan, except that there are no limits on PCP visits, and there are four specialty visits per month. Under the State Plan, physician services are limited to four visits per month, including specialty visits.”

## **III. MODIFICATION OF EVALUATION DESIGN**

Due to the minimal changes OHCA is proposing, OHCA will not be adding a hypothesis for the 2013-2015 demonstration extension period.

## **IV. BUDGET NEUTRALITY**

Pending

## **V. PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with STC #16, *Public Notice, Tribal Consultation and Consultation with Interested Parties*, Oklahoma provides meaningful public notice to the Oklahoma American Indian Tribes by providing a tribal consultation forum for proposed changes.

OHCA has initiated the tribal consultation process and has sent notice to the tribes via email notification on April 22, 2014. OHCA will present the proposed changes at the May 6, 2014 regularly scheduled tribal consultation meeting held at OHCA. Refer to the attached agenda.

Any tribal input will be considered by OHCA and submitted to CMS.