

**INITIAL RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**

**TITLE 310. OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CHAPTER 661. HOSPICE**

**1. DESCRIPTION:**

Proposed language adds marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors as options to the hospice interdisciplinary group. Definitions for these two professionals are being added for clarity.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS AFFECTED AND COST IMPACT RESPONSE:**

Hospice owners and administrators will likely benefit financially from the broadening of professionals who may provide social services to patients and their families. Hospice patients are expected to benefit by having additional options for counseling services, particularly in rural areas where providers may be limited.

**3. DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS BENEFITING, VALUE OF BENEFIT AND EXPECTED HEALTH OUTCOMES:**

Hospice patients and families are likely to benefit from having additional qualified staff to provide medical social services. Improved access to services is expected to improve outcomes.

**4. ECONOMIC IMPACT, COST OF COMPLIANCE, AND FEE CHANGES: COST OF COMPLIANCE AND FEE CHANGES:**

There are no anticipated costs for compliance.

**5. COST AND BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT TO THE AGENCY:**

There are no anticipated costs to the agency for implementation or enforcement of the proposed language.

**6. IMPACT ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:**

There are no known or expected impacts on political subdivisions.

**7. ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS:**

There are no anticipated adverse effects on small businesses.

**8. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE COSTS OF THE RULE:**

No less costly means have been identified.

**9. EFFECT ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

Patients and families who receive hospice care may see better outcomes due to increased access to qualified professionals for key services.

**10. DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY WITHOUT ADOPTION:**

Without adoption, both hospice patients and their families may not receive all core hospice services due to a lack of qualified personnel, particularly in rural areas.

**11. PREPARATION AND MODIFICATION DATES:**

This rule impact statement was prepared on August 20, 2024