

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) values your feedback and input. It is very important that you provide your comments regarding the proposed rule change by the comment due date. Comments can be submitted on the OHCA's [Proposed Changes Blog](#).

OHCA COMMENT DUE DATE: January 18, 2022

The proposed policy is an Emergency Rule. The proposed policy was presented at the November 2, 2021 Tribal Consultation. Additionally, this proposal is scheduled to be presented to the Medical Advisory Committee on January 13, 2022 and the OHCA Board of Directors on March 16, 2022.

Reference: APA WF # 21-44

SUMMARY:

Independent Clinical Psychologist Services for Adults – The proposed revisions update policy to reflect that adults, covered by Medicaid, can access services provided by licensed clinical psychologists who bill independently and are practicing within state scope of practice. Services provided by independently contracted clinical psychologists were previously a State Plan benefit only available to children.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act, Section 5007 (C)(2) of Title 63 of Oklahoma Statutes; the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board; Oklahoma Medicaid State Plan

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

SUBJECT: Rule Impact Statement
APA WF # 21-44

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rule:

The proposed revisions update policy to reflect that adults, covered by Medicaid, can access services provided by licensed clinical psychologists who bill independently and are practicing within state scope of practice. Services provided by independently contracted clinical psychologists were previously a State Plan benefit only available to children. Finally, revisions will involve minor cleanup to fix grammatical and formatting errors.

B. A description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the cost of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities:

SoonerCare adult members who utilize psychologist services will be positively affected by the proposed rule changes.

SoonerCare contracted clinical psychologists will also be affected by the proposed rule changes.

- C. A description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule:

The proposed rule changes to expand coverage for SoonerCare adult psychologist services will benefit SoonerCare adult members by allowing access to certain benefits that were not previously provided.

Additionally, the proposed rule changes will benefit clinical psychologist providers by allowing reimbursement for the delivery of services to SoonerCare adult members.

- D. A description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon the affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change:

There is no probable economic impact, and there are no fee changes associated with the rule change for the above classes of persons or any political subdivision.

- E. The probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency:

The proposed rule changes will result in a total budget impact of \$1,723,105; with \$361,938 in state match for SFY2022. The state match will be paid by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS).

- F. A determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule:

The proposed rule changes will not have an economic impact on any political subdivision or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule changes.

- G. A determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an adverse effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act:

The proposed rule is not expected to have an adverse effect on small business.

- H. An explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule:

The Agency has taken measures to determine that there is no less costly or non-regulatory method or less intrusive method for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

- I. A determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk:

The proposed rule should have no adverse effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

- J. A determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented:

The Agency anticipates that in the absence of these rule changes it will hinder SoonerCare adult members from receiving needed services.

- K. The date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified:

Prepared: January 3, 2022

RULE TEXT:

**TITLE 317. OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
CHAPTER 30. MEDICAL PROVIDERS-FEE FOR SERVICE**

SUBCHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS AND SPECIALTIES

PART 25. PSYCHOLOGISTS

317:30-5-275. Eligible providers

(a) Licensed Psychologist must be licensed to practice in the state in which services are provided. Payment is made for compensable services to psychologists licensed in the state in which ~~face to~~ face-to-face services are delivered.

(b) Psychologists employed in State and Federal ~~Agencies~~ agencies, who are not permitted to engage in private practice, cannot be reimbursed for services as an individually contracted provider.

(c) Services provided by practitioners, who have completed education requirements to begin an internship or a post-doctoral fellowship in an accredited clinical psychology academic training program and are under current board approved supervision toward licensure, are eligible for reimbursement. Each supervising psychologist must have a current contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA).

(d) For those licensure candidates who are actively and regularly receiving board approved supervision, or extended supervision by a fully licensed clinician and if the board's supervision requirement is met but the individual is not yet licensed, each supervising psychologist must have a current contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA).

(e) In order for services provided by clinical psychology interns completing required internships, post-doctoral fellows completing required supervision for licensure to be reimbursed, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The licensed practitioner billing SoonerCare must have a letter on file covering the dates of services of the internship or ~~post-doctoral~~ post-doctoral fellowship;
- (2) The psychology intern or post-doctoral fellow must be under the direct supervision of the licensed psychologist who is responsible for the member's care;
- (3) The licensed psychologist responsible for the member's care must:
 - (A) ~~staff~~ Staff the member's case with the intern or fellow,
 - (B) ~~actively~~ Actively direct the services; and
 - (C) ~~be~~ Be available to the intern or fellow for in-person consultation while they are providing services; and
 - (D) ~~agree~~ Agree with the current plan for the member; and
 - (E) ~~confirm~~ Confirm that the service provided by the intern or fellow was appropriate; and.
- (4) The member's medical record must show that the requirements for reimbursement were met and the licensed psychologist responsible for the member's care has reviewed, countersigned, and dated the notes in the medical record at least every week so that it is documented that the licensed psychologist is responsible for the member's care.

317:30-5-276. Coverage by category

(a) **Outpatient Behavioral Health Services.** Outpatient behavioral health services are covered as set forth in this Section, when provided in accordance with a documented individualized service plan medical record, developed to treat the identified behavioral health and/or substance use disorder(s), unless specified otherwise.

(1) All services are to be for the goal of improvement of functioning, independence, or wellbeing of the member. The services and treatment plans are to be recovery focused, trauma and co-occurring specific. The member must be able to actively participate in the treatment. Active participation means that the member must have sufficient cognitive abilities, communication skills, and short-term memory to derive a reasonable benefit from the treatment.

(2) In order to be reimbursed for services, providers must submit a completed Customer Data Core (CDC) to OHCA or its designated agent. The CDC must be reviewed, updated and resubmitted by the provider every six months. Reimbursement is made only for services provided while a current CDC is on file with OHCA or its designated agent. For further information and instructions regarding the CDC, refer to the Prior Authorization Manual.

(3) Some outpatient behavioral health services may require authorization. For information regarding services requiring authorization and the process for obtaining them, refer to the Prior Authorization Manual. Authorization of services is not a guarantee of payment. The provider is responsible for ensuring that the eligibility, medical necessity, procedural, coding, claims submission, and all other state and federal requirements are met. OHCA does retain the final administrative review over both authorization and review of services as required by 42 CFR Code of Federal Regulations 431.10.

(b) ~~Adults.~~ Coverage for adults by a psychologist is limited to ~~Bio-Psycho-Social Assessments when required by OHCA as part of a preoperative prior authorization protocol for organ transplant or bariatric surgical procedures.~~

(1) ~~The interview and assessment is defined as a face to face interaction with the member. Assessment includes a history, mental status, full bio-psycho-social evaluation, a disposition, communications with family or other sources, review of laboratory or other pertinent medical information, and medical/clinical consultations as necessary. The pre-op evaluation should~~

aim to assess the member's psychological well-being, ability to make informed decisions, and willingness to participate actively in postoperative treatment.

~~(2) For bariatric preoperative assessments, issues to address include, but are not limited to: Depression, self-esteem, stress management, coping skills, binge eating, change in eating habits, other eating disorders, change in social roles, changes associated with return to work/school, body image, sexual function, lifestyle issues, personality factors that may affect treatment and recovery, alcohol or substance use disorders, ability to make lasting behavior changes, and need for further support and counseling.~~

~~(e)~~**(b) Children.** Coverage for children includes the following services:

(1) Bio-Psycho-Social Assessments. Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview Examination (PDIE) initial assessment or Level of Care Assessment. The interview and assessment is defined as a face-to-face interaction with the member. Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination includes a history, mental status, and a disposition, and may include communication with family or other sources, ordering and medical interpretation of laboratory or other medical diagnostic studies. Only one (1) PDIE is allowable per provider per member. If there has been a break in service over a six (6) month period, then an additional unit of PDIE can be prior authorized by OHCA, or their designated agent.

(2) Psychotherapy in an outpatient setting including an office, clinic, or other confidential setting. The services may be performed at the residence of the member if it is demonstrated that it is clinically beneficial, or if the member is unable to go to a clinic or office. Psychotherapy is defined as a one to one treatment using a widely accepted modality or treatment framework suited to the individual's age, developmental abilities and diagnosis. It may include specialized techniques such as biofeedback or hypnosis. Psychotherapy is considered to involve "interactive complexity" when there are communication factors during a visit that complicate delivery of the psychotherapy by the psychologist. Sessions typically involve members who have other individuals legally responsible for their care (i.e. minors or adults with guardians); members who request others to be involved in their care during the session (i.e. adults accompanied by one or more participating family members or interpreter or language translator); or members that require involvement of other third parties (i.e. child welfare, juvenile justice, parole/probation officers, schools, etc.). Psychotherapy should only be reported as involving interactive complexity when at least one (1) of the following communication factors is present:

(A) The need to manage maladaptive communication (i.e. related to high anxiety, high reactivity, repeated questions, or disagreement) among participants that complicate delivery of care.

(B) Caregiver emotions/behavior that interfere with implementation of the treatment plan.

(C) Evidence/disclosure of a sentinel event and mandated report to a third party (i.e. abuse or neglect with report to state agency) with initiation of discussion of the sentinel event and/or report with patient and other visit participants.

(D) Use of play equipment, physical devices, interpreter or translator to overcome barriers to therapeutic interaction with a patient who is not fluent in the same language or who has not developed or lost expressive or receptive language skills to use or understand typical language.

(3) Family Psychotherapy is performed in an outpatient setting limited to an office, clinic, or other confidential setting. Family therapy is a face-to-face interaction between a therapist and the patient/family to facilitate emotional, psychological or behavioral changes and promote communication and understanding. Family therapy must be provided for the benefit of a

~~SoonerCare eligible child~~ the member as a specifically identified component of an individual treatment plan.

(4) Group and/or Interactive Group psychotherapy in an outpatient setting must be performed in the psychologist's office, clinic, or other confidential setting. Group therapy is a face to face interaction between a therapist and two or more unrelated patients (though there may be siblings in the same group, just not siblings only) to facilitate emotional, psychological, or behavioral changes. All group therapy records must indicate group size. Maximum total group size is six (6) patients for children four years of age up to the age of 18. ~~Groups 18-20 year olds can include up to eight (8) individuals for members 18-20 years of age.~~ Group therapy must be provided for the benefit of ~~a SoonerCare eligible child~~ the member four years of age or older as a specifically identified component of an individual treatment plan. Multi-family group therapy size is limited to eight family units.

(5) Assessment/Evaluation and testing is provided by a psychological technician of a psychologist or a LBHP utilizing tests selected from currently accepted assessment test batteries. For assessments conducted in a school setting, the Oklahoma State Department of Education requires that a licensed supervisor sign the assessment. Eight hours/units of testing per patient (over the age of three), per provider is allowed every 12 months. There may be instances when further testing is appropriate based on established medical necessity criteria found in the Prior Authorization Manual. Test results must be reflected in the service plan or medical record. The service must clearly document the need for the testing and what the testing is expected to achieve. Testing for a child younger than three must be medically necessary and meet established criteria as set forth in the Prior Authorization Manual. Justification for additional testing beyond allowed amount as specified in this section must be clearly explained and documented in the medical record. Testing units must be billed on the date the testing, interpretation, scoring, and/or reporting was performed and supported by documentation.

(6) Health and Behavior codes - behavioral health services are available only to chronically and severely medically ill ~~children~~ members.

(7) Crisis intervention services for the purpose of stabilization and hospital diversion as clinically appropriate.

(8) Payment for therapy services provided by a psychologist to any one member is limited to eight sessions/units per month. A maximum of twelve (12) ~~12~~-sessions/units of therapy and testing services per day per provider are allowed. A maximum of ~~35~~ thirty five (35) hours of therapy per week per provider are allowed. The weekly service hour limitation will be calculated using a rolling four (4) week average. ~~Case Management services are considered an integral component of the behavioral health services listed above.~~

~~(9) A child who is being treated in an acute psychiatric inpatient setting can receive separate Psychological services as the inpatient per diem is for "non-physician" services only.~~

(9) A child may receive psychological testing and evaluation services as separately reimbursable services.

(10) A child receiving Residential Behavioral Management in a foster home, also known as therapeutic foster care, or a child receiving Residential Behavioral Management in a group home, also known as therapeutic group home, may not receive individual, group or family counseling or ~~psychological testing~~ unless allowed by the OHCA or its designated agent.

(c) Adults. Coverage for adults is the same as for children. For group therapy, groups can include up to eight individuals for adult members 18 years of age and older.

(d) Home and Community Based Waiver Services for the Intellectually Disabled. All

providers participating in the Home and Community Based Waiver Services for the intellectually disabled program must have a separate contract with this Authority to provide services under this program. All services are specified in the individual's plan of care.

(e) **Individuals eligible for Part B of Medicare.** Payment is made utilizing the Medicaid allowable for comparable services.

(f) **Nursing Facilities.** Services provided to members residing in nursing facilities may not be billed to SoonerCare.

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