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 6, 2025

The proposed policy changes are currently in effect as Emergency Rules and must be promulgated as Permanent Rules. The proposed changes were presented at the April 30, 2024 and September 3, 2024 Tribal Consultation Meetings. These revisions will be presented at a Public Hearing scheduled for January 6, 2025, and are scheduled to be presented as Permanent Rules to at the OHCA Board of Directors Meeting on January 15, 2025.

SUMMARY: The Oklahoma Health Care Authority proposes policy revisions to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. These revisions prevent third-party insurers from denying Medicaid members' claims solely due to the lack of prior authorization for services covered under the state plan or waivers. Additionally, these changes align with Section 1903(c) of the Social Security Act, designating Medicaid as the payer of first resort for Medicaid-covered services listed in a Medicaid-eligible student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

LEGAL AUTHORITY
The Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act, Section 5007 (C)(2) of Title 63 of Oklahoma Statutes; the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board and Section 1396a(a)(25)(I) of Title 42 of the United States Code

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

SUBJECT: Rule Impact Statement
APA WF # 24-18

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rule:

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority proposes policy revisions to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. These revisions prevent third-party insurers from denying Medicaid members' claims solely due to the lack of prior authorization for services covered under the state plan or waivers. Additionally, these changes align with Section 1903(c) of the Social Security Act, designating Medicaid as the payer of first resort for Medicaid-covered services listed in a Medicaid-eligible student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

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:

The proposed rule changes will affect Medicaid eligible students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). They will also impact SoonerCare members who have a third-party insurer. This rule change may place a cost burden on third party insurers. No information on any cost impacts were received from any entity.

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

The proposed rule changes will benefit SoonerCare children enrolled in Local Education Agencies (LEA's) who are included in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), and SoonerCare members who have a third-party insurer and receive services covered under the state plan that would otherwise need to receive prior authorization. The proposed rule changes have the potential to improve access to care and health equity.

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 subdivisions.

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 affect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency:

The estimated total cost for SFY2026 is $320,459 ($105,618 in state share and $214,841 in federal share).

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 agency does not anticipate that the proposed rule changes will have an adverse effect on small businesses.

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 are no other legal methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed rule. Measures included a formal public comment period and tribal consultation.

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 or environment.

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

The agency does not anticipate any detrimental effect on the public health and safety if the proposed rule is not passed.

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

Prepared date: November 13, 2024.

RULE TEXT:

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

SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL PROVIDER POLICIES

PART 1. GENERAL SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

317:30-3-24. Third party liability

As the Medicaid Agency, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is the payer of last resort, with few exceptions. When other resources are available, those resources must first be utilized. Exceptions to this policy are those receiving medical treatment through Indian Health Services, eligible students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) receiving school-based services and those eligible for the Crime Victims Compensation Act. Guidance for third party liability under the Insure Oklahoma program is found in Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 317:45, Insure Oklahoma.

(1) If a member has coverage by an absent parent's insurance program or any other policy holder, that insurance resource must be used prior to filing a SoonerCare claim. This includes Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO) and any other insuring arrangements that provide a member access to healthcare.

Members must comply with all requirements of their primary insurance as well as SoonerCare requirements in order to take advantage of both coverages. For example, a member must comply with the network restrictions of both the primary and SoonerCare plans ~~as well as prior authorization requirements~~. If the member does not comply with the requirements of the primary plan, he/she will be responsible for the charges incurred. ~~Denials by private insurance companies because the member did not secure a preauthorization or use a participating provider is not a sufficient reason for SoonerCare to make payment~~The state's authorization that an item or service is as covered under the state plan, or a waiver of such plan, shall meet the prior authorization requirements of the primary insurer. If the provider is aware of private insurance or liability, a claim must first be filed with that source. When private insurance information is known to the OHCA, the eligibility verification system will reflect that information. If payment is denied by the primary insurance, except as stated above, the provider must attach the Explanation of Benefits (EOB), stating the reason for the denial, to the claim submitted to the Fiscal Agent. When payment is received from another source, that payment amount must be reflected on the claim form.

(2) It is possible that other resources are available but are unknown to OHCA. Providers will routinely question SoonerCare members to determine whether any other resources are available. In some instances, coverage may not be obvious, for example, the member may be covered by a policy on which he/she is not the subscriber (e.g., a child whose absent parent maintains medical and hospital coverage).

(3) If the provider receives payment from another source after OHCA has made payment, it is necessary that the provider reimburse OHCA for the SoonerCare payment. The provider may retain the primary insurance payment, if any, that represents payment for services that are not covered services under SoonerCare. By accepting the OHCA's payment, the provider agrees to accept it as payment in full and, therefore, cannot retain any portion of other resource money as payment for reduced charges on covered services. Other than SoonerCare copayments, a provider cannot bill a member for any unpaid portion of the bill or for a claim that is not paid because of provider administrative error. If, after reimbursing OHCA and retaining a portion of the other payment in satisfaction of any non-covered services there is money remaining, it must be refunded to the member.

(4) If a member is covered by a private health insurance policy or plan, he/she is required to inform medical providers of the coverage, including:

(A) provision of applicable policy numbers;

(B) assignment payments to medical providers;

(C) provision of information to OHCA of any coverage changes; and

(D) release of money received from a health insurance plan to the provider if the provider has not already received payment or to the OHCA if the provider has already been paid by the OHCA.

(5) Members are responsible for notifying their providers of the intent to make application for SoonerCare coverage and of any retroactive eligibility determinations. Members may be responsible for any financial liability if they fail to notify the provider of the eligibility determinations and as a result, the provider is unable to secure payment from OHCA.

(6) Members must present evidence of any other health insurance coverage to a medical provider each time services are requested. Members may be responsible for any financial

liability if they fail to furnish the necessary information before the receipt of services and as a result, the provider is unable to secure payment from OHCA.