RE: Coverage for Services Provided by Therapy Assistants and Clinical Fellows - Effective Feb. 1, 2021

Dear Provider,

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority is pleased to announce that starting Feb. 1, 2021, it will begin reimbursing for coverage of services rendered by therapy assistants and speech-language pathology clinical fellows. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology therapy assistants will be reimbursed at 85% of the rate paid to fully-licensed therapists, as established per the Oklahoma Medicaid State Plan. Speech-language pathology clinical fellows will be reimbursed at the same rate as fully licensed speech-language pathology therapists.

Each qualified therapy assistant and clinical fellow will need to complete a SoonerCare contract. The contract must also be tied to an appropriate billing group contract by completing an Appendix A. The contracts and the Appendix A may be found at http://okhca.org/providerenrollment.

Please note, the Oklahoma Administrative Code links listed below will be updated with the new policy changes on Feb. 1, 2021. Please forward this letter to your administrative, billing, compliance, and utilization review departments.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2021:

Agency rules are amended at OAC 317:30-5-2901, 317:30-5-291, 317:30-5-2911, 317:30-5-293, 317:30-5-295, 317:30-5-296, 317:30-5-297, 317:30-5-299, 317:30-5-482, 317:30-5-641, 317:30-5-675, 317:30-5-676, 317:30-5-677, 317:30-5-680, and 317:30-5-1023 to add physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants, speech-language pathology assistants, and speech-language pathology clinical fellows as eligible providers that can render therapy services to SoonerCare members. Furthermore, the revisions will outline provider qualifications and other requirements for provision of these therapy services.

OHCA encourages you to review each rule change in its entirety. If you have questions concerning these changes or the contracting process, please email provider enrollment at Providerenrollment@okhca.org or call 800-522-0114, option 5.

Thank you for your continued support and the services you provide to SoonerCare members.

Sincerely,

Melody Anthony
State Medicaid Director