

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 15, 2020

The proposed policy changes are currently in effect as an Emergency Rule and must be promulgated as a Permanent Rule. The proposed policy was presented at the June 18, 2019 Tribal Consultation and the September 5, 2019 Medical Advisory Committee. Additionally, this proposed change will be presented at a Public Hearing scheduled for January 15, 2020 and to the OHCA Board of Directors on January 22, 2020.

Reference: APA WF 19-08

SUMMARY:

Telehealth services - The proposed revisions bring OAC 317:30-3-27 into compliance with recently enacted Senate Bill (SB) 575, which becomes effective on October 1, 2019. The rules also establish and/or clarify requirements for the provision of telehealth services, including those services provided in a school setting.

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 25 Oklahoma Statutes, Sections 2004 and 2005.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

STATE OF OKLAHOMA OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

TO: Maria Maule
Legal Services

FROM: Harvey Reynolds
Federal and State Authorities

SUBJECT: Rule Impact Statement
APA WF # 19-08

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rule:

The proposed revisions to telehealth policies are in accordance with Oklahoma Senate Bill (SB) No. 575, which amended 25 Oklahoma Statutes (O.S.), Sections 2004 and 2005. Revisions outline and further define the following requirements for telehealth services: parental consent; confidentiality and security of protected health information; services provided or received outside of Oklahoma that may require prior authorization; and that services provided must be within the scope of the practitioner's license or certification. Revisions also define that program restrictions and coverage for telehealth services mirror those which exist for the same services when not provided through telehealth; however, the rule also outlines that only certain telehealth codes are reimbursable by SoonerCare. **The aforementioned proposed rules were promulgated through the Emergency Rule process.**

- 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:

Schools that have established telehealth programs, SoonerCare providers who treat children at a school site with an established telehealth program, and children who are treated through a school-based telehealth program are most likely to be affected by the proposed rule changes. These rule changes should not place any cost burden on private or public entities. 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 some SoonerCare members and providers by establishing and/or clarifying requirements for the provision of telehealth services, including those services provided in a school setting.

- 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 proposed rule changes 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 proposed rule changes will result in a budget impact of \$332,330 of which \$115,950 is the state 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 changes. 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 changes should not have any effect on the public health, safety, or environment. The proposed rule changes are not designed to reduce significant risks to 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, safety, or environment if the proposed rule changes are not implemented.

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

Prepared date: May 14, 2019

Modified date: September 19, 2019

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

317:30-3-27. Telehealth

(a) **Definitions.** The following words and terms, when used in this Section, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) **"Remote patient monitoring"** means the use of digital technologies to collect medical and other forms of health data (e.g. vital signs, weight, blood pressure, blood sugar) from individuals in one (1) location and electronically transmit that information securely to health care providers in a different location for assessment and recommendations.

(2) "School-based services" means medically necessary health-related and rehabilitative services that are provided by a qualified school provider to a student under the age of twenty-one (21), pursuant to an Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. See Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 317:30-5-1020.

~~(2)(3) "Store and forward" means the acquisition (storing) of clinical information (e.g. data, document, image, sound, video) that is then electronically transmitted (forwarded to or retrieved by) to another site for clinical~~

~~evaluation~~transmission of a patient's medical information from an originating site to the health care provider at the distant site; provided, photographs visualized by a telecommunications system shall be specific to the patient's medical condition and adequate for furnishing or confirming a diagnosis or treatment plan. Store and forward technologies shall not include consultations provided by telephone audio-only communication, electronic mail, text message, instant messaging conversation, website questionnaire, nonsecure video conference, or facsimile transmission.

~~(3)~~(4) **"Telehealth"** means the mode of delivering healthcare services via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of patients, at a distance from health care providerspractice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, evaluation and treatment, transfer of medical data or exchange of medical education information by means of a two-way, real-time interactive communication, not to exclude store and forward technologies, between a patient and a health care provider with access to and reviewing the patient's relevant clinical information prior to the telemedicine visit. Telehealth shall not include consultations provided by telephone audio-only communication, electronic mail, text message, instant messaging conversation, website questionnaire, nonsecure video conference, or facsimile transmission.

(5) **"Telehealth medical service"** means, for the purpose of the notification requirements of OAC 317:30-3-27(d)(2), telehealth services that expressly do not include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech and hearing services.

(b) **Applicability and scope.** The purpose of this Section is to implement telehealth policy that improves access to health care services, while complying with all applicable ~~Federal and State laws~~State and Federal laws and regulations. Telehealth services are not an expansion of ~~SoonerCare covered~~SoonerCare-covered services, but an option for the delivery of certain covered services. However, if there are technological difficulties in performing an objective, thorough medical assessment, or problems in the member's understanding of telehealth, hands-on-assessment and/or ~~in-person~~in-person care must be provided for the member. Any service delivered using telehealth technology must be appropriate for telehealth delivery and be of the same quality and otherwise on par with the same service delivered in person. A telehealth encounter must ~~comply with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)~~maintain the confidentiality and security of protected health information in accordance with applicable State and Federal law, including, but

not limited to, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, and 43A Oklahoma Statutes (O.S.) § 1-109. For purposes of SoonerCare reimbursement, telehealth is the use of interactive audio, video, or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment that ~~occurs~~ occurs in real-time and when the member is actively participating during the transmission. ~~Telehealth does not include the use of audio only telephone, electronic mail or facsimile transmission.~~

(c) **Conditions Requirements.** The following ~~conditions~~ requirements apply to all services rendered via telehealth.

(1) Interactive audio and video telecommunications must be used, permitting encrypted, real-time communication between the physician or practitioner and the SoonerCare member. The telecommunication service must be secure and adequate to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the telehealth information transmitted. As a condition of payment the member must actively participate in the telehealth visit.

(2) The telehealth equipment and transmission speed and image must be technically sufficient to support the service billed. If a peripheral diagnostic scope is required to assess the member, it must provide adequate resolution or audio quality for decision making. Staff involved in the telehealth visit need to be trained in the use of the telehealth equipment and competent in its operation.

(3) The medical or behavioral health related service must be provided at an appropriate site for the delivery of telehealth services. An appropriate telehealth site is one that has the proper security measures in place; the appropriate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards should be in place that ensures the confidentiality, integrity, and security of electronic protected health information. The location of the room for the encounter at both ends should ensure comfort, privacy, and confidentiality. Both visual and audio privacy are important, and the placement and selection of the rooms should consider this. Appropriate telehealth equipment and networks must be used considering factors such as appropriate screen size, resolution, and security. Providers and/or members may provide or receive telehealth services outside of Oklahoma when medically necessary; however, prior authorization may be required, per OAC 317:30-3-89 through 317:30-3-91.

(4) The provider must be contracted with SoonerCare and appropriately licensed ~~for the service to be provided or~~ certified, in good standing. Services that are provided must be within the scope of the practitioner's license or certification. If the provider is outside of Oklahoma, the provider must comply with all laws and regulations of the

provider's location, including health care and telehealth requirements.

(5) If the member is a ~~minor-child~~, a ~~parent/guardian~~ parent or legal guardian must present the ~~minor child~~ for telehealth services unless otherwise exempted by State or Federal law. The ~~parent/guardian~~ parent or legal guardian need not attend the telehealth session unless attendance is therapeutically appropriate. The requirements of subsection OAC 317:30-3-27(c)(5), however, do not apply to telehealth services provided in a primary or secondary school setting.

(6) The member retains the right to withdraw at any time.

(7) All telehealth activities must comply with ~~the HIPAA Security Standards~~, OHCA Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) policy, and all other applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, 59 O.S. § 478.1.

(8) The member has access to all transmitted medical information, with the exception of live interactive video as there is often no stored data in such encounters.

(9) There will be no dissemination of any member images or information to other entities without written consent from the member or member's parent or legal guardian, if the member is a minor.

(10) A telehealth service is subject to the same SoonerCare program restrictions, limitations, and coverage which exist for the service when not provided through telehealth; provided, however, that only certain telehealth codes are reimbursable by SoonerCare. For a list of the SoonerCare-reimbursable telehealth codes, refer to the OHCA's Behavioral Health Telehealth Services and Medical Telehealth Services, available on OHCA's website, www.okhca.org.

(d) Additional requirements specific to telehealth services in a school setting. In order for OHCA to reimburse medically necessary telehealth services provided to SoonerCare members in a primary or secondary school setting, all of the requirements in (c) above must be met, with the exception of (c)(5), as well as all of the requirements shown below, as applicable.

(1) Consent requirements. Advance parent or legal guardian consent for telehealth services must be obtained for minors, in accordance with 25 O.S. §§ 2004 through 2005. Additional consent requirements shall apply to school-based services provided pursuant to an IEP, per OAC 317:30-5-1020.

(2) Notification requirements. For telehealth medical services provided in a primary or secondary school setting, the telehealth practitioner must provide a summary of the service, including, but not limited to, information regarding the exam findings, prescribed or administered medications, and patient instructions, to:

(A) The SoonerCare member, if he or she is an adult, or the member's parent or legal guardian, if the member is a minor; or

(B) The SoonerCare member's primary care provider, if requested by the member or the member's parent or legal guardian.

(3) **Requirements specific to physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech and hearing services.** Even though physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech and hearing services are not subject to the notification requirements of OAC 317:30-3-27(d) (2), said services must still comply with all other State and Federal Medicaid requirements, in order to be reimbursable by Medicaid. Accordingly, for those physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech and hearing services that are provided in a primary or secondary school setting, but that are not school-based services (i.e., not provided pursuant to an IEP), providers must adhere to all State and Federal requirements relating to prior authorization and prescription or referral, including, but not limited to, 42 C.F.R. § 440.110, OAC 317:30-5-291, 317:30-5-296, and 317:30-5-676.

~~(d)~~ (e) **Reimbursement.**

(1) Health care services delivered by telehealth such as Remote Patient Monitoring, Store and Forward, or any other telehealth technology, must be compensable by OHCA in order to be reimbursed.

(2) Services provided by telehealth must be billed with the appropriate modifier.

(3) If the technical component of an X-ray, ultrasound or electrocardiogram is performed during a telehealth transmission, the technical component can be billed by the provider that provided that service. The professional component of the procedure and the appropriate visit code should be billed by the provider that rendered that service.

(4) The cost of telehealth equipment and transmission is not reimbursable by SoonerCare.

~~(e)~~ (f) **Documentation.**

(1) Documentation must be maintained by the rendering provider to substantiate the services rendered.

(2) Documentation must indicate the services were rendered via telehealth, and the location of the services.

(3) All other SoonerCare documentation guidelines apply to the services rendered via telehealth. Examples include but are not limited to:

(A) Chart notes;

(B) Start and stop times;

(C) Service provider's credentials; and

(D) Provider's signature.

~~(f)~~(g) **Final authority.** The OHCA has discretion and the final authority to approve or deny any telehealth services based on agency and/or SoonerCare members' needs.

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