

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 CFR § 447.205, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in methods and standards for setting payment rates for services in the SoonerCare program. The following method change will necessitate an amendment to the Oklahoma Medicaid State Plan. The proposed changes were initially presented at the tribal consultation on March 3, 2020 at 11a.m. in the OHCA Boardroom; the State Plan Amendment Rate Committee (SPARC) meeting on March 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the OHCA boardroom; and at the OHCA Board meeting on March 30, 2020 at 3:30 PM via teleconference. The originally proposed changes have since been revised. The revised proposal will be presented virtually at the tribal consultation on September 1, 2020 at 11 a.m.; the SPARC meeting on September 8th, 2020 at 1 PM via teleconference; and at the OHCA Board meeting on September 16, 2020 at 3 PM via teleconference. Interested persons can request to attend the virtual SPARC meeting by visiting the [SPARC webpage](#), or request to attend the virtual OHCA Board meeting by visiting the [OHCA Board meetings webpage](#); both webpages are located on the OHCA website at www.okhca.org.

Therapy Assistants, Effective date: February 1, 2021, contingent upon CMS approval.

The OHCA had previously provided public notice on June 26, 2020 of its intent to promulgate policy to establish coverage and reimbursement for services provided by therapy assistants. The OHCA is revising its previous notice, herein. The OHCA will seek approval of a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to add coverage and reimbursement methodologies for licensed physical and occupational therapy assistants, licensed speech language pathology assistants (SLPAs), and provisionally licensed speech language pathologist clinical fellows. The proposed revisions will outline provider qualifications and other requirements for provision of therapy services. Therapy assistants will be paid 85% of the rate paid to fully-licensed physical and occupational therapists as well as speech-language pathologists. Provisionally licensed speech language pathologist clinical fellows will be paid at the same rate of fully licensed speech language pathologists.

The estimated budget impact for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 will be an increase in the total amount of \$2,297,680; with \$856,116 state share. The estimated budget impact for SFY2022 will be an increase in the total amount of \$4,595,360; with \$1,493,492 state share.

Interested persons may visit www.okhca.org/PolicyBlog to view a copy of the public notice(s). Due to the current public health emergency and the associated social distancing guidelines, persons wishing to present their views in writing or obtain copies of the proposed state plan amendment may do so via mail by writing to: Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Federal Authorities Unit, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, or by email at federal.authorities@okhca.org. Written comments or requests for copies of the proposed state plan amendment will be accepted by contacting OHCA as indicated. Other written comments are available upon request at federal.authorities@okhca.org.