



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

OHCA 2010-58

November 23, 2010

Re: Changes to OHCA Hospice Rules

Dear Provider,

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of forthcoming rule changes regarding the provision of hospice services. Effective March 23, 2010, federal law requires states to make hospice services available to children who qualify for either Medicaid or Medicaid-expansion Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs without forgoing any other service to which the child is entitled under Medicaid for treatment of the terminal condition. (See OAC 30-5-42.16). While hospice providers are still responsible for all hospice related services, hospice providers are **not** responsible for the curative treatments for members that elect such services while receiving hospice.

Additionally, effective January 1, 2011 all SoonerCare and waiver members (children and adults) receiving hospice services are required to be re-evaluated by a physician or nurse practitioner prior to the end of their initial 180th day recertification. A re-evaluation consists of a face to face encounter with the member to determine their need for continued care hospice care.

Furthermore, if additional hospice care is necessary, the member will be authorized for a period not to exceed 60 days, and prior to the end of the 60 day period, the member must be reevaluated for further hospice care. Thereafter a re-evaluation will be performed every 60 days until the member no longer requires hospice services.

The OHCA greatly appreciates your support of the SoonerCare and Insure Oklahoma programs. If you have any questions, please contact Provider Services at 1-877-823-4529, option 2.

Thank you for the services you provide to our SoonerCare and Insure Oklahoma members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garth L. Splinter, M.D.".

Garth L. Splinter, M.D.
State Medicaid Director