

## Hospice and Home Health COVID-19 Call 05/21/2020

1. OKSCREEN Background Checks during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Guest Speaker Barry Edwards, Administrative Programs Manager for OKSCREEN Background Check and Detention
2. Temporary fingerprinting halted: OKSCREEN encourages you to fingerprint if you can make an appointment. At one point 27 different sites were closed, that is now down to 11.
  - a. When they get to 5 sites the requirement will resume and you must fingerprint. Although the fingerprinting was temporarily waived, you still must enter the employee into program and submit the application and fee.
  - b. Again, you don't have to fingerprint as OKSCREEN is doing a name-based background check. That check doesn't follow them to a different agency.
  - c. If there are questions regarding where your employee is in the process, please call and we can check to see for you. For more information on the background check program, go to our OKSCREEN Website and look for updates. A tutorial of how to enter an application, run a registry, etc. will be available soon.
  - d. The provisional timeframe has been extended as well. If the employee shows "in progress," you can keep them as a provisional employee. Watch the website to see when the amendments changes and when we go back to normal requirements.
3. Emergency Rules
  - a. Signed by governor on 05/14/2020.
  - b. Effective immediately and **through the duration of the Governor's Emergency COVID-19 Executive Order, or through September 14, 2021**, whichever occurs first (unless superseded by another rule). **This is a change from our previous guidance that extension would last until 09/30/2020.**
  - c. Emergency Rules are addressed in OAC 310 Chapter 2 and subchapter 3.
  - d. **Emergency Rules address suspension/extension of renewal deadlines for occupational or professional license to any individual, business or organization** that has expired or will expire during the emergency and shall remain valid until fourteen (14) days following the withdrawal or termination of the Executive Order.
  - e. The department **may waive any late or expiration fees** associated with the license until the withdrawal or termination of the Executive Order.
  - f. **No deferrals** may be granted **following the withdrawal or termination** of the Executive Order.
  - g. Staffing and supervisory requirements may be waived for the duration of the Executive Order.
  - h. OSDH may grant provisional approval of license without fingerprinting.



4. There are no updates in Executive Orders at present that encompasses all 1135 waived requirements for Home Health and Hospice. We have no pending expected date to report to you. However, we (OSDH – Home Services) are still aligning with Federal guidelines to ensure patient’s needs come before paperwork.
5. There have been no recurrent questions this week except two questions on the OKSCREEN Background Check and two billing questions. We have consistently referred agencies to their MAC when billing questions are asked.

6. Questions & Answers

Please remember this is a collaborative venue and if you have questions or answers for your fellow providers, please take opportunity to ask/answer.

Q: We have two new employees and were told they would still have to be fingerprinted later. Do we make them permanent employees?

A: During the COVID-19 crisis, the fingerprinting can occur at a different time. At present, we have completed a name-based background check only and it will not follow the employee when/if they go to a different employer. The only time you should make the employee permanent is once you’ve received confirmation from us. After they’ve been confirmed by OSDH, you are then able to change them from provisional.

Q) Will there be minutes to this call on the website?

A) Yes, they can be found at

[https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective Health/Medical Facilities Service/Home Services Division/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Medical_Facilities_Service/Home_Services_Division/index.html)

Information: Annette Mays with OAHC will be sending out a questionnaire regarding in home testing of COVID-19 (specimen collection). She will also be taking any billing questions you might have as part of a coalition with Palmetto.