



Kevin Corbett | Chief Executive Officer

J. Kevin Stitt | Governor

I/T/U Public Notice 2021-14

September 30, 2021

RE: Oklahoma Health Care Authority Proposed COVID-19 Disaster Relief Request

Dear Tribal Representative:

The purpose of this letter is to give you notice of the proposed COVID-19 disaster relief policy follow-up requests that the Agency submitted to CMS on September 29, 2021.

In response to the public health emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to assist states in responding to the COVID-19 national emergency. CMS is allowing states to request flexibilities which revise policies related to eligibility, enrollment, benefits, premiums, cost sharing, and payments outlined in their Medicaid state plans as well as Section 1115 demonstrations. The flexibilities ensure sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of Medicaid members and to ensure health care providers who furnish such services in good faith, but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for services absent any determination of fraud or abuse.

OHCA requested the following COVID-19 related policy change through a disaster relief request:

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) in coordination with the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) submitted a disaster relief state plan amendment (SPA) to allow adults in the Medicaid program access to services provided by licensed clinical psychologists who can bill independently and are practicing within state scope of practice. Services provided by independently contracted clinical psychologists are currently a State Plan benefit only available to children. The OHCA will also pursue a Title XIX permanent SPA and an Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) SPA to extend this flexibility and access upon the termination of the public health emergency (PHE).

The OHCA values consultation with tribal governments and will strive to provide your representatives up-to-date information regarding the requests submitted to CMS.



ADDRESS

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WEBSITES

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OKLAHOMA
Health Care Authority

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Additionally, this disaster relief item will be discussed at the upcoming tribal consultation meeting on November 2, 2021.

Sincerely,

Dana Miller
Director, Tribal Government Relations



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