

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 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. Changes are being made to increase the rate reimbursed for private duty nursing (PDN). The proposed changes will be presented in two public meetings: the State Plan Amendment Rate Committee on September 12, 2017, at 1:00 PM. and the OHCA Board meeting on September 27, 2017, at 1:00 PM. Both meetings will be held at the OHCA offices located at 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., OKC, OK 73105 in the OHCA Board Room.

Private Duty Nursing Rate Change, Effective: October 1, 2017

The OHCA proposes an increase in the reimbursement rate for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) from \$6.30 per 15 minute unit (\$25.20/hour) to \$7.55 per 15 minute unit (\$30.20/hour); equating to a 19.84 percent increase to the current reimbursement rate. The increase in the rate attempts to better align rates with the industry in Oklahoma and increase PDN agencies' ability to recruit and retain nurses.

Currently, only three organizations provide PDN services to OK Medicaid children. If there is no rate increase, these organizations will be unable to recruit and retain nurses and OHCA estimates this will lead to a 20% increase in delayed discharges from long term acute care children's hospitals. The estimated budget impact for state fiscal year 2018 is estimated to be budget neutral; OHCA does anticipate an increase in utilization with an increased rate due to the addition of nursing staff but there will be a corresponding decrease in hospital days and could result in a net savings to the agency.

Persons wishing to present their views in writing or obtain copies of the proposed changes may do so at the following address: Demetria Bennett, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105, or by email at Demetria.Bennett@okhca.org. Copies of the proposed changes are available for public review at the OHCA by contacting Demetria Bennett by telephone 405-522-7641 or at the email address above. She will link callers with local agencies in each county where copies of the proposed changes are available for public review. Written and oral comments will be accepted during regular business hours by contacting Mrs. Bennett as indicated. Comments submitted will be available for review by the public Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, at OHCA located at the above address. The proposed changes may also be viewed and receive written comments on the agency's website at www.okhca.org.