Oklahoma Health Care Authority

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) values your feedback and input. It is very important that you provide your comments regarding the proposed rule change by the comment due date. Comments can be submitted on the OHCA's Proposed Changes Blog.

OHCA COMMENT DUE DATE: August 31, 2022

The proposed policy is an Emergency Rule. The proposed policy was presented at the July 5, 2022, Tribal Consultation. Additionally, this proposed change will be presented to the Medical Advisory Committee on September 8, 2022, and the OHCA Board of Directors on September 21, 2022.

REFERENCE: APA WF 22-13

SUMMARY:
Allowing APRNs and PAs to Render Physician-Required Psychiatric Services – The proposed rule changes will allow APRNs with psychiatric certifications and PAs to provide psychiatric services. Presently, psychiatric service provision is only allowed by psychiatrists to members in inpatient settings. The psychiatric services provided by APRNs and PAs will now also include psychiatric evaluations and weekly individual treatment hours.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:
The Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act, Section 5007 (C)(2) of Title 63 of Oklahoma Statutes; The Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

SUBJECT: Rule Impact Statement
APA WF # 22-13

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rule:

The proposed rule changes will allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with psychiatric certifications and Physician Assistants (PA) to provide psychiatric services. Presently, psychiatric service provision is only allowed by psychiatrists to members in inpatient settings. The psychiatric services provided by APRNs and PAs will now also include psychiatric evaluations and weekly individual treatment hours.

B. A description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the cost of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities:

No classes of persons will be affected by the proposed rule.

C. A description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule:

The proposed rule changes will benefit inpatient psychiatric providers who will be allowed to utilize APRNs with psychiatric certifications and PAs to address physician shortages and extend the reach of behavioral health treatments such as psychiatric evaluations and weekly individual treatment hours.

The proposed rule changes will benefit SoonerCare members seeking inpatient psychiatric services by allowing them to receive timely treatment by qualified inpatient psychiatric professionals.

D. A description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon the affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change:

There is no economic impact and there are no fee changes associated with the rule change for the above classes of persons or any political subdivision.

E. The probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency:

The proposed rule changes will be budget neutral.

F. A determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule:

The proposed rule will not have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule.

G. A determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an adverse effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act:

The proposed rule will not have an adverse effect on small businesses as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

H. An explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule:

The Agency has taken measures to determine that there is no less costly or non-regulatory method or less intrusive method for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

I. A determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety, and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety, and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk:

The proposed rule should have no effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

J. A determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety, and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented:

The Agency does not anticipate any detrimental effect on the public health, safety, or environment if the proposed rule changes are not implemented.

K. The date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified:

Prepared: June 23, 2022
Modified: June 29, 2022

RULE TEXT

TITLE 317. OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
CHAPTER 30. MEDICAL PROVIDERS-FEE FOR SERVICE

SUBCHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS AND SPECIALTIES

PART 6. INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES

317:30-5-95.6. Medical, psychiatric, and social evaluations for adults aged twenty-one (21) to sixty-four (64)

The record for an adult member aged twenty-one (21) to sixty-four (64) must contain complete medical, psychiatric, and social evaluations.

(1) The evaluations must be completed as follows:

(A) History and ~~Physical~~physical must be completed within twenty-four (24) hours of admission by a licensed independent practitioner [~~MD, DO~~Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, Advanced Practice ~~Register~~Registered Nurse (APRN), or Physician Assistant (PA)].

(B) Psychiatric ~~Evaluation~~evaluation must be completed within sixty (60) hours of admission by an Allopathic ~~Or~~or Osteopathic Physician with a current license and a board certification/eligible in psychiatry, an APRN with a psychiatric certification or a PA.

(C) Psychosocial ~~Evaluation~~evaluation must be completed within seventy-two (72) hours of admission by a licensed independent practitioner (~~MD, DO,~~Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, APRN, or PA), ~~a licensed behavioral health professional~~an LBHP, or a licensure candidate as defined in OAC 317:30-5-240.3.

(2) The evaluations must be clearly identified as such and must be signed and dated by the evaluator.

317:30-5-95.16. Medical psychiatric and social evaluations for persons sixty-five (65) years

of age or older receiving inpatient acute psychiatric services

The record of a member sixty-five (65) years of age or older receiving inpatient acute psychiatric services must contain complete medical, psychiatric, and social evaluations.

(1) The evaluations must be completed as follows:

(A) History and ~~Physical~~physical must be completed within twenty-four (24) hours of admission by a licensed independent practitioner [~~MD, DO~~Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, Advanced Practice ~~Register~~Registered Nurse (APRN), or Physician Assistant (PA)].

(B) Psychiatric ~~Evaluation~~evaluation must be completed within sixty (60) hours of admission by an allopathic or osteopathic physician with a current license and a board certification/eligible in psychiatry, an APRN with a psychiatric certification or a PA.

(C) Psychosocial ~~Evaluation~~evaluation must be completed within seventy-two (72) hours of admission by a licensed independent practitioner (Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, APRN, or PA), ~~a licensed behavioral health professional (LBHP)~~an LBHP, or licensure candidate as defined in OAC 317:30-5-240.3.

(2) The evaluations must be clearly identified as such and must be signed and dated by the evaluator.

317:30-5-95.34. Active treatment for children

(a) The following words and terms, when used in this Section, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) **"Active treatment"** means implementation of a professionally developed and supervised individual plan of care (IPC) that involves the member and his or her family or guardian from the time of an admission, and through the treatment and discharge process.

(2) **"Discharge/transition planning"** means a patient-centered, interdisciplinary process that begins with an initial assessment of the member's needs at the time of admission and continues throughout the member's stay. Active collaboration with the member, family, and all involved outpatient practitioners and agencies should be ongoing throughout treatment so that effective connections remain intact. Needed services may consist of the wraparound process through Systems of Care, counseling, case management, and other supports in the member's community. The linkages with these supports should be made prior to discharge to allow for a smooth transition.

(3) **"Expressive group therapy"** means art, music, dance, movement, poetry, drama, psychodrama, structured therapeutic physical activities, and experiential (e.g., ropes course), recreational, or occupational therapies that encourage the member to express themselves emotionally and psychologically.

(4) **"Family therapy"** means interaction between an LBHP or licensure candidate, member, and family member(s) to facilitate emotional, psychological, or behavioral changes and promote successful communication and understanding.

(5) **"Group rehabilitative treatment"** means behavioral health remedial services, as specified in the individual care plan, which are necessary for the treatment of the existing primary behavioral health disorders and/or any secondary alcohol and other drug (AOD) disorders in order to increase the skills necessary to perform activities of daily living (ADL).

(6) **"Individual rehabilitative treatment"** means a face-to-face, one-on-one interaction which is performed to assist a member who is experiencing significant functional impairment due to the existing primary behavioral health disorder and/or any secondary AOD disorder, in

order to increase the skills necessary to perform ADL.

(7) **"Individual therapy"** means a method of treating existing primary behavioral health disorders and/or any secondary AOD disorders using face-to-face, one-on-one interaction between an LBHP or licensure candidate and a member to promote emotional or psychological change to alleviate disorders.

(8) **"Process group therapy"** means a method of treating existing primary behavioral health disorders and/or secondary AOD disorders using the interaction between an LBHP or licensure candidate, and two (2) or more members to promote positive emotional and/or behavioral change.

(b) Inpatient psychiatric programs must provide "active treatment". Families and/or guardians must be notified of the dates and times of treatment team meetings and be welcomed to attend. Family members must attend family therapy weekly for continued SoonerCare reimbursement. Reasons for exceptions to this requirement must be well-documented in the member's treatment plan. Family therapy attendance by family members is not a requirement for individuals in the age range of eighteen (18) up to twenty-one (21). Active treatment also includes ongoing assessment, diagnosis, intervention, evaluation of care and treatment, and planning for discharge and aftercare under the direction of a physician.

(c) For individuals ages eighteen (18) up to twenty-one (21), the active treatment program must be appropriate to the needs of the member and be directed toward restoring and maintaining optimal levels of physical and psychiatric-social functioning. The services and the IPC must be recovery-focused, trauma-informed, specific to culture, age, and gender, and provided face to face. Services, including type and frequency, will be specified in the IPC.

(d) A treatment week consists of seven (7) calendar days. In an Acute setting, the treatment week begins the day of admission. In Acute II and PRTF, the treatment week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Active treatment service components are provided as per item (e) below if the services are provided within a seven (7) day treatment week. A chart outlining active treatment component requirements and timelines may also be found at www.okhca.org. If a member has a length of stay of less than seven (7) days, the treatment week is considered a partial treatment week. Active treatment requirements, when provided during a partial treatment week, are delivered as per item (f) below. An hour of treatment must be sixty (60) minutes. When appropriate to meet the needs of the child, the sixty (60) minute timeframe may be split into sessions of no less than fifteen (15) minutes each, on the condition that the active treatment requirements are fully met by the end of the treatment week.

(e) For individuals under age eighteen (18), the components of active treatment consist of face-to-face integrated therapies that are provided on a regular basis and will remain consistent with the member's ongoing need for care. The services and IPC must be recovery-focused, trauma-informed, and specific to culture, age, and gender. Individuals receiving services in an Acute setting must receive seventeen (17) hours of documented active treatment services each week, with seven (7) of those hours dedicated to core services as described in (1) below. Individuals in Acute II and PRTFs must receive fourteen (14) hours of documented active treatment services each week, with four and a half (4.5) of those hours dedicated to core services as described in (1) below. Upon fulfilling the core service hours requirement, the member may receive either the elective services listed in (2) below or additional core services to complete the total required hours of active treatment. The following components meet the minimum standards required for active treatment, although an individual child's needs for treatment may exceed this minimum standard:

(1) **Core services.**

(A) **Individual treatment provided by the physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or Physician Assistant (PA).** Individual treatment provided by the physician, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA is required three (3) times per week for Acute and one (1) time a week in Acute II and PRTFs. Individual treatment provided by the physician, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA will never exceed ten (10) calendar days between sessions in Acute II and PRTFs, and never exceed seven (7) calendar days in a specialty Acute II and specialty PRTF. Individual treatment provided by the physician, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA may consist of therapy or medication management intervention for Acute, Acute II, and PRTF programs.

(B) **Individual therapy.** LBHPs or licensure candidates performing this service must use and document an approach to treatment such as cognitive behavioral treatment, narrative therapy, solution-focused brief therapy, or another widely accepted theoretical framework for treatment. Ongoing assessment of the member's status and response to treatment, as well as psycho-educational intervention, are appropriate components of individual therapy. Individual therapy must be provided in a confidential setting. The therapy must be goal-directed, utilizing techniques appropriate to the member's plan of care and the member's developmental and cognitive abilities. Individual therapy must be provided two (2) hours per week in Acute and one (1) hour per week in Acute II and PRTFs by an LBHP or licensure candidate. One (1) hour of family therapy may be substituted for one (1) hour of individual therapy at the treatment team's discretion.

(C) **Family therapy.** The focus of family therapy must be directly related to the goals and objectives on the individual member's plan of care. Family therapy must be provided one (1) hour per week in Acute, Acute II, and PRTFs. One (1) hour of individual therapy addressing relevant family issues may be substituted for a family session in an instance in which the family is unable to attend a scheduled session by an LBHP or licensure candidate.

(D) **Process group therapy.** The focus of process group therapy must be directly related to goals and objectives on the individual member's plan of care. The individual member's behavior and the focus of the group must be included in each member's medical record. This service does not include social skills development or daily living skills activities and must take place in an appropriate confidential setting, limited to the therapist, appropriate hospital staff, and group members. Group therapy must be provided three (3) hours per week in Acute and two (2) hours per week in Acute II and PRTFs by an LBHP or licensure candidate. In lieu of one (1) hour of process group therapy, one (1) hour of expressive group therapy provided by an LBHP, licensure candidate, or licensed therapeutic recreation specialist may be substituted.

(E) **Transition/discharge planning.** Transition/discharge planning must be provided one (1) hour per week in Acute and thirty (30) minutes per week in Acute II and PRTFs. Transition/discharge planning can be provided by any level of inpatient staff.

(2) **Elective services.**

(A) **Expressive group therapy.** Through active expression, inner strengths are discovered that can help the member deal with past experiences and cope with present life situations in more beneficial ways. The focus of the group must be directly related to goals and objectives on the individual member's plan of care. Documentation must include how the member is processing emotions/feelings. Expressive therapy must be a planned therapeutic activity, facilitated by staff with a relevant bachelor's degree and/or

staff with relevant training, experience, or certification to facilitate the therapy.

(B) **Group rehabilitative treatment.** Examples of educational and supportive services, which may be covered under the definition of group rehabilitative treatment services, are basic living skills, social skills (re)development, interdependent living, self-care, lifestyle changes, and recovery principles. Each service provided under group rehabilitative treatment services must have goals and objectives directly related to the IPC.

(C) **Individual rehabilitative treatment.** Services are provided to reduce psychiatric and behavioral impairment and to restore functioning consistent with the requirements of independent living and enhanced self-sufficiency. This service includes educational and supportive services regarding independent living, self-care, social skills (re)development, lifestyle changes, and recovery principles and practices. Each individual rehabilitative treatment service provided must have goals and objectives directly related to the IPC and the member's diagnosis.

(D) **Recreation therapy.** Services are provided to reduce psychiatric and behavioral impairment and to restore, remediate, and rehabilitate an individual's level of functioning and independence in life activities. Services are provided to promote health and wellness, as well as reduce or eliminate barriers caused by illness or disabling conditions that limit or restrict a member from participating in life activities. Recreational therapy can be provided in an individual or group setting. If the only activities prescribed for the individual are primarily diversional in nature, (i.e., to provide some social or recreational outlet for the individual), it will not be regarded as active treatment. If provided, recreational therapy must be a planned therapeutic activity, facilitated by a licensed therapeutic recreation specialist.

(E) **Occupational therapy.** Services are provided to address developmental and/or functional needs related to the performance of self-help skills, adaptive behavioral, and/or sensory, motor, and postural development. Services include therapeutic goal-directed activities and/or exercises used to improve mobility and ADL functions when such functions have been impaired due to illness or injury. Services must be provided by an occupational therapist appropriately licensed in the state in which he or she practices.

(F) **Wellness resource skills development.** Services include providing direction and coordinating support activities that promote physical health. The focus of these activities should include areas such as nutrition, exercise, support to avert and manage physical health concerns like heart disease, diabetes, and cholesterol, and guidance on the effects that medications have on physical health. Services can include individual/group support, exercise groups, and individual physical wellness plan development, implementation, and assistance.

(3) **Modifications to active treatment.** When a member is too physically ill, or his or her acuity level precludes him or her from active behavioral health treatment, documentation must demonstrate that alternative clinically-appropriate services were provided.

(f) Active treatment components, furnished during a partial treatment week, are provided as per item (1) through (4) below. A chart outlining active treatment component requirements and timelines may also be found at www.okhca.org. Assessments/evaluations may serve as the initial individual or family session if completed by an LBHP or licensure candidate. Start and stop time must be documented. Active treatment begins the day of admission. Days noted are calendar days.

(1) **Individual treatment provided by the physician, APRN or PA.**

(A) In Acute, by day two (2), one (1) visit is required. By day four (4), two (2) visits are

required. By day seven (7), three (3) visits are required.

(B) In Acute II and PRTFs, one (1) visit during admission week is required. In PRTFs, one (1) visit during the admission week is required, then once a week thereafter. Individual treatment provided by the physician, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA will never exceed ten (10) days between sessions in Acute II and PRTFs, never exceed seven (7) days in specialty Acute II and specialty PRTFs. The completion of a psychiatric evaluation or a combined psychiatric evaluation and a history and physical (H&P) evaluation may count as the first visit ~~by the physician~~ if the evaluation was personally rendered by the psychiatrist, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA. If the member is admitted on the last day of the admission week, then the member must be seen by a physician, APRN with psychiatric certification or PA within sixty (60) hours of admission time.

(2) **Individual therapy.**

(A) In Acute, by day three (3), thirty (30) minutes of treatment are required. By day five (5), one (1) hour of treatment is required. Beginning on day seven (7), two (2) hours of treatment are required each week. This does not include admission assessments/evaluations or psychosocial evaluations unless personally (face to face) rendered by the LBHP or licensure candidate.

(B) In Acute II and PRTFs, by day six (6), thirty (30) minutes of treatment must be documented. Beginning on day seven (7), one (1) hour of treatment is required each week. The treatment week is defined as Sunday through Saturday. Individual therapy may not exceed a total of ten (10) days between sessions. This does not include admission assessment/evaluation or psychosocial evaluations unless personally (face to face) rendered by the LBHP or licensure candidate.

(3) **Family therapy.**

(A) In Acute, by day six (6), thirty (30) minutes of treatment must be documented. Beginning on day seven (7), one (1) hour of treatment is required each week. This does not include admission assessments/evaluation or psychosocial evaluations unless personally (face to face) rendered by the LBHP or licensure candidate and the assessments/evaluation or psychosocial evaluation has not been used to substitute the initial individual therapy requirement.

(B) In Acute II and PRTFs, by day six (6), thirty (30) minutes of treatment must be documented. Beginning on day seven (7), one (1) hour of treatment is required each week. This does not include admissions assessment/evaluation or psychosocial evaluation unless personally (face to face) rendered by the LBHP or licensure candidate and the assessment/evaluation or psychosocial evaluation has not been used to substitute the initial individual therapy requirement. Family therapy provided by the LBHP or licensure candidate should not exceed ten (10) days in between sessions.

(4) **Process group therapy.**

(A) In Acute, by day three (3), one (1) hour of treatment is required. By day five (5), two (2) hours of treatment are required. Beginning on day seven (7), three (3) hours of treatment are required each week.

(B) In Acute II and PRTFs, by day five (5), one (1) hour of treatment is required. Beginning on day seven (7), two (2) hours of treatment are required each week.

(g) When an individual is determined to be too ill to participate in treatment, as determined by medical/nursing staff [registered nurse (RN)/licensed practical nurse (LPN)], documentation must

be in the record clearly indicating the reason, limitations, and timeframe for those services to be excused without penalty.

317:30-5-95.37. Medical, psychiatric, and social evaluations for inpatient services for children

The member's medical record must contain complete medical, psychiatric, and social evaluations.

(1) These evaluations are considered critical documents to the integrity of care and treatment and must be completed as follows:

(A) History and physical evaluation must be completed within twenty-four (24) hours of admission by a licensed independent practitioner ~~(M.D., D.O., A.P.N., or P.A.)~~ [Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), or Physician Assistant (PA)] in Acute, Acute II, and PRTFs.

(B) Psychiatric evaluation must be completed within sixty (60) hours of admission by an allopathic or osteopathic physician with a current license and a board certification/eligible in psychiatry. APRN with a psychiatric certification or PA in Acute, Acute II, and PRTFs.

(C) Psychosocial evaluation must be completed within seventy-two (72) hours of an Acute admission, and within seven (7) calendar days of admission to Acute II and PRTFs by a licensed independent practitioner ~~(M.D., D.O., A.P.N., or P.A.)~~(Allopathic Doctor, Osteopathic Doctor, APRN, or PA), LBHP, or licensure candidate.

(2) Each of the evaluations must be clearly identified as such and must be signed and dated by the evaluators.

(3) Each of the evaluations must be completed when the member changes levels of care if the existing evaluation is more than thirty (30) calendar days from admission. For continued stays at the same level of care, evaluations remain current for twelve (12) months from the date of admission and must be updated annually within seven (7) calendar days of that anniversary date.

(4) Existing evaluations of thirty (30) days or less may be used when a member changes provider or level of care. The evaluation(s) must be reviewed, updated as necessary, and signed and dated by the appropriate level of professional as defined by the type of evaluation.