

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: January 2, 2024

The proposed policy changes are currently in effect as Emergency Rules and must be promulgated as Permanent Rules. The proposed policy was presented at the Tribal Consultation held on October 31, 2023, and to the Medical Advisory Committee held on November 2, 2023. Additionally, this proposal will be presented at a Public Hearing scheduled for January 8, 2024, and are scheduled to be presented as Permanent Rules to the OHCA Board of Directors on January 17, 2024.

REFERENCE: APA WF 23-21

SUMMARY:

Quarterly Payments for Orthodontic Services - Proposed rule revisions add criteria surrounding a new proposal to transition the Agency's current orthodontic payment protocol from a bulk payment system to a quarterly payment protocol. The new payment protocol will be based on twenty-four (24) months with built in progress reports. Proposed revisions will remove outdated language and add new language to delineate the new payment criteria and billing instructions.

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 # 23-21

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rule:

The new request is a proposal to transition the Agency's current orthodontic payment protocol from a bulk payment system to a quarterly payment protocol. The new payment protocol will be based on twenty-four (24) months with built in progress reports.

If the provider determines treatment is required beyond 24 months, the provider will be responsible for continuing treatment without further payment from SoonerCare and at no cost to the member; continuing the same protocol from previous thirty-six (36) month procedure.

Additionally, proposed rule revisions will outline billing instruction changes to include that diagnosis codes will now be requested to be listed in appropriate field when submitting prior authorization on provider portal; and Prior authorizations and claims must be submitted through the provider portal.

- 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:

The proposed rule changes will affect SoonerCare providers who provide orthodontic services, as they will now be required to adhere to a new billing protocol. This rule change should not place any cost burden on private or public entities. No information on any cost impacts were received from any entity.

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

The proposed rule changes will improve member access to care by facilitating and tracking member transfer of care and aligning with shorter treatment time (24 months) for patient and provider due to improved materials and techniques in Orthodontia.

- 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 due to no change in the reimbursement amount.

- 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: October 18, 2023

Modified: November 14, 2023

RULE TEXT

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

SUBCHAPTER 5. INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS AND SPECIALTIES

PART 79. DENTISTS

317:30-5-700.1. Orthodontic prior authorization

(a) Orthodontic services are available for members who are SoonerCare-eligible and under eighteen (18) years of age, at the time the request for prior authorization for treatment is received, per Oklahoma Administrative Code 317:30-5-700. The following records and documentation, plainly labeled with the member's full name, recipient identification number (RID), and the orthodontist's name are required for prior authorization of orthodontic services and must be electronically submitted to the Dental Unit of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) Dental Program when the member has a total score of not less than thirty (30) points or meets other eligibility criteria in paragraph (d).

- (1) Completed prior authorization requesting all needed treatments;

- (2) Complete and scored Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviation (~~HDL~~)(HLD) Index with Diagnosis of Angle's classification;
 - (3) Detailed description of any oral maxillofacial anomaly;
 - (4) Estimated length of treatment;
 - (5) Intraoral photographs showing teeth in centric occlusion and/or photographs of trimmed anatomically occluded diagnostic casts. A lingual view of casts may be included to verify impinging overbites;
 - (6) Cephalometric images with tracing, and panoramic film, with a request for prior authorization of comprehensive orthodontic treatment;
 - (7) Completed OHCA caries risk assessment form;
 - (8) If diagnosed as a surgical case, submit an oral surgeon's written opinion that orthognathic surgery is indicated and the surgeon is willing to provide this service; and
 - (9) Additional pertinent information as determined necessary by the orthodontist or as requested by the OHCA.
- (b) All images and required documentation must be submitted electronically in one (1) package. ~~OHCA is not responsible for lost or damaged materials.~~
- (c) All records and documentation submitted in a request for prior authorization for orthodontic treatment are reviewed by the OHCA orthodontic consultant for compensability and length of treatment. ~~Any documentation on which a decision is made will not be returned.~~
- (d) Some children not receiving a minimum score of thirty (30) on the ~~HDL~~HLD Index may have other conditions to be considered. In the event an orthodontist believes there are other medical, social, or emotional conditions impacting the general health of the child, he/she refers to the conditions listed on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) exception section found on the HLD. The following guidelines and restrictions apply to other conditions:
- (1) Other medical, social, or emotional conditions are limited to those conditions that affect the medical, social or emotional function of the child;
 - (2) Other medical, social, or emotional conditions are not scored if the sole condition sought to be improved is the cosmetic appearance of the child;
 - (3) Such other medical, social, or emotional conditions must be demonstrated by objective evidence such as supported documentation outside the child's immediate family (e.g., a child's teacher, primary care physician, behavioral health provider, school counselor);
 - (4) Objective evidence must be submitted with the HLD;
 - (5) When such other medical, social, or emotional conditions are reflected on the HLD, the OHCA orthodontic consultant must review the data and use his or her professional judgment to score the value of the conditions; and
 - (6) The OHCA orthodontic consultant may consult with and utilize the opinion of the orthodontist who completes the form.
- (e) If it is determined that the malocclusion is not severe enough to warrant medically necessary orthodontic services or the member's age precludes approval, a computer generated notice is issued to the provider and member with notice of the denial, the reason for the denial, and appeal rights [see Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 317:2-1 for grievance procedures and processes].
- (f) Orthodontic treatment and payment for the services are approved within the scope of the SoonerCare program. If orthodontic treatment is approved, a computer generated notice is issued authorizing the first year of treatment.
- (1) Approval of orthodontic treatment is given in accordance with the following:

(A) Authorization for the first ~~year~~twelve (12) months of comprehensive orthodontic care begins on the date of banding and includes the placement of appliances, arch wires, and a minimum of six (6) adjustments. It is expected that orthodontic members be seen every four (4) to eight (8) weeks for the duration of active treatment.

~~(B) Subsequent adjustments will be authorized in one (1) year intervals and the treating orthodontist must provide a comprehensive progress report at the twenty-four (24) month interval.~~Subsequent treatment will be authorized quarterly for the next three (3) quarters. The treating orthodontist must provide a comprehensive progress report for consideration for the fourth and final quarterly approval.

~~(C) All approved treatment is included on the original prior authorization and will include the total payment for that treatment year.~~

(2) Claim and payment are made as follows:

(A) Payment for comprehensive treatment includes the banding, wires, adjustments as well as all ancillary services, lost or broken bracket replacement, including the removal of appliances, and the construction and placing of retainers.

~~(B) Payment is not made for comprehensive treatment beyond thirty-six (36) months.~~Payment for comprehensive treatment is considered paid in full at twenty-four (24) months regardless of treatment length.

(g) If the member moves from the geographic area or shows a need to change their provider, then the provider who received the ~~yearly~~first year payment is financially responsible until completion of that member's orthodontic treatment for the current year.

(h) If the provider who received ~~yearly~~the first year payment does not agree to be financially responsible, then the OHCA may recoup funds paid for the member's orthodontic treatment.

(i) All orthodontic services are subject to post-utilization review. This review may include a request by the OHCA to submit medical documentation necessary to complete the review. After review is completed, these materials are returned to the orthodontist.

(j) Electronic images of casts and/or oral/facial images may be requested by OHCA or representatives of OHCA. Providers will be reimbursed for either the study model or images when obtained for orthodontic evaluation and/or therapy.

(1) Documentation of casts and/or photographic images must be kept in the client's medical record and medical necessity identified on the submitted electronic claim.

(2) For photographic images, the oral/facial portfolio must include a view of the complete lower arch, complete upper arch, and left and right maximum intercuspation of teeth.

(A) Maximum intercuspation refers to the occlusal position of the mandible in which the cusps of the teeth of both arches fully interpose themselves with the cusps of the teeth of the opposing arch.

(B) Intercuspation defines both the anterior-posterior and lateral relationships of the mandible and the maxilla, as well as the superior-inferior relationship known as the vertical dimension of occlusion.

(3) 3-D model images or photographic images not in compliance with the diagnostic guidelines will not be compensable. The provider may be allowed to resubmit new images that adhere to the diagnostic guidelines. If the provider does not provide appropriate documentation, the request for treatment will be denied.

317:30-5-704. Billing instructions

(a) **HCPCS Codes.** The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) utilizes the Medicare Level II Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes. All claim submissions must be in compliance with this coding system.

(b) **Prior authorization.** Where applicable, the appropriate arch, quadrant, or tooth surface and tooth number must be included on the claim. Diagnosis codes are requested to be listed in ~~box 34 of the current American Dental Association (ADA) dental claim form. For mailed prior authorizations, a completed HCA-13D form is required.~~ the appropriate field when submitting prior authorizations on the provider portal.

(c) **Images.** Any type of film or prints submitted will not be returned. All images must be dated, mounted and have patient's name, recipient identification number (RID), provider name and provider number.

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