



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

OHCA 2016-23

July 29, 2016

**RE: Inpatient Behavioral Health Updates – Effective September 1, 2016**

Dear Provider,

This letter is to inform you of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's (OHCA) policy changes promulgated through the 2016 legislative session per the Administrative Procedures Act. All policy changes are effective September 1, 2016, and will be posted to the [policy website](#) on that date. In the interim, comprehensive summaries of the changes are listed below. Please note, the Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) links identified below will be updated with the new policy changes on September 1, 2016. Please forward this letter to your administrative, billing, and compliance departments.

These rule changes were posted to the OHCA Proposed Policy Changes [website](#) on December 16, 2015 through January 15, 2016 or January 15, 2016 through February 16, 2016 during the 2016 permanent rule making session.

**Beginning September 1, 2016:**

Inpatient behavioral health policy at [317:30-5-95.25](#), [317:30-5-95.26](#), [317:30-5-95.33](#), [317:30-5-95.34](#), [317:30-5-95.41](#), and [317:30-5-95.42](#) is amended to remove outdated references to Axis I and II diagnosis language to align with changes to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Additional revisions clarify assessment and evaluation criterion and include cleanup to outdated language. Rules are also revised to remove outdated references to the provider manual to reflect current procedures for out-of-state reviews. In addition policy is revised to include Service Quality Review requirements for Ad Hoc reviews.

Inpatient behavioral health policy at OAC [317:30-5-95.24](#) is amended to clarify nurse staffing ratio, 24 hour nursing care requirements and to outline supervision requirements for psychiatric facilities. In addition, revisions clarify that any unit that does not allow clear line of sight due to presence of walls or doors is a separate unit. Additionally, revisions include adding a requirement that admission assessments for inpatient psychiatric care, both acute and residential levels, must be provided in accordance with federal regulations.

Inpatient behavioral health policy at OAC [317:30-5-95.35](#) and [317:30-5-95.37](#) is amended to clarify that candidates for licensure can perform assessments and psychosocial evaluations when appropriate and medically necessary. In addition, revisions clarify that when existing evaluations of 30 days or less are used when a member changes provider level of care, the evaluation(s) must be updated as necessary and signed and dated by the appropriate level of professional.

This letter is provided for informational purposes only. The OHCA encourages you to review each rule change in its entirety. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact (800) 522-0114.

Thank you for the services you provide to our SoonerCare members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Pasternik-Ikard".

Rebecca Pasternik-Ikard  
State Medicaid Director