

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 447.205 Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 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. An ITU notice was sent to inform tribal partners of this change on February 21, 2025. The proposed changes were presented at the Tribal Consultation meeting on March 4, 2025, 2025 at 11:00 AM in person and via teleconference.

Birth Centers and Licensed Midwives, Effective date: November 1, 2025, contingent upon CMS approval.

The proposed State Plan amendment establishes coverage and reimbursement methodologies for birthing centers and licensed midwives. Senate Bill 1739 (2024) ended state licensing of birthing centers and directed OHCA to cover services provided by freestanding birthing centers, certified nurse midwives, and licensed midwives. The proposed changes allow for coverage of birthing center and licensed midwives' services for normal, uncomplicated, low-risk births. Birthing centers must be accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC). Licensed midwives must be Certified Midwives or Certified Professional Midwives licensed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to provide midwifery services.

Birthing centers will be reimbursed a facility fee based on the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) fee schedule. In a situation where a member labors but does not deliver at a birthing center, the facility may bill HCPCS code S4005. The rate for S4005 is \$1,415.71, 50% of the APC rate for delivery only (59409). Licensed midwives will be reimbursed 80% of the physician fee schedule rate for services within their statutory scope of practice, including obstetrical visits, deliveries, newborn assessments, fetal stress tests, and certain injection and medication codes. Laboratory and imaging services ordered by licensed midwives will be reimbursed 100% of the physician fee schedule rate.

This State Plan amendment is anticipated to be budget neutral due to a shift in billing provider type.

Interested persons may visit oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/public-notice to view a copy of the public notice(s) and visit oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/proposed-changes to view a copy of the proposed state plan amendment and a link to provide public comments on the proposal. Persons wishing to present their views in writing or obtain copies of the proposed state plan amendments may do so via mail by writing to: Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Federal Authorities Unit, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, or by email at federal.authorities@okhca.org. Written comments or requests for copies of the proposed state plan amendments will be accepted by contacting OHCA as indicated. Comments submitted through the OHCA policy blog will be available for review online at oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/proposed-changes. Other written comments are available upon request at federal.authorities@okhca.org. Comments will be accepted from August 15, 2025 through August 30, 2025.