

Oklahoma *SoonerCare* Update

SoonerCare Main Telephone Numbers

OKC Metro (405) 522-7366

State-wide Toll Free 1-877-823-4529

OHCA Website: www.okhca.org

December 7, 2005

Dear Provider:

SoonerCare PCP Network Option to Renew for 2006

It is time to renew your **SoonerCare** Primary Care Provider (PCP) contract for 2006. Your 2006 Option to Renew includes a two page Option to Renew document which will outline contract changes for next year. Also included will be a new Attachment A "Capitated Service List", Attachment B "Office Information Page and Universal Credentialing Form", and Attachment C "New Rate Schedule. These documents are available on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's web site. To avoid a disruption in your **SoonerCare** contract, your renewal should be completed and returned now. If you have any questions concerning this process or are unable to obtain these documents on the web site please contact your SoonerCare Provider Representative at 1-877-823 4529, option #2.

The required documents that need to be included are:

A copy of your current medical license.

Proof of Medical Malpractice coverage or statement of Federal Tort Claims exemption.

A copy of your Oklahoma BNDD certificate.

A copy of you federal DEA license.

Board certification documentation (if applicable).

Please note: **SoonerCare** PCPs who see children will be required to participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. If you need more information concerning VFC please contact the Immunization Division at the Oklahoma State Department of Health at: (405) 271-4073.

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority would like to thank you in advance for your continued participation in the **SoonerCare** program and for your commitment to providing quality health care to Oklahoma Medicaid recipients.

SoonerCare Nurse Advice Line Changes

Beginning January 1, 2006 the **SoonerCare Nurse Advice Line's (NAL)** name is changing to the **SoonerCare Patient Advice Line (PAL)**. **PAL's** new hours of operation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends and holidays. Patients who call **PAL** during normal business hours will be instructed to call their PCP for medical advice and triage needs for urgent care situations.

You may continue to use **PAL** as an after hours resource for your **SoonerCare** patients to meet your 24 hour access to medical information requirement in your contract. However it will be your responsibility to triage your patients as needed to determine the urgency of their medical needs during normal business hours and schedule medical appointments within your contract guidelines. A **SoonerCare** Beneficiary Services Coordinator or Provider Representative may call your office to verify that the member has contacted you and if the member was triaged for an urgent care need. The **SoonerCare Patient Advice Line** telephone number is 800-530-3002.

Useful information regarding Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage

Included in this FAX Blast is useful information concerning Medicare Part D coverage. While **SoonerCare** does not enroll this group of individuals into the Primary Care Provider network, we felt that it is important to share this information with you.

Oklahoma Medicaid Pharmacy Update

Pharmacy Help Desk Telephone Number 405-522-6205 or 1-800-522-0114

Email: medicaidrx@okhca.org OHCA Website www.okhca.org

November 30, 2005

Dear Pharmacy Provider,

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit

Many of your patients have received information about the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. We know that your patients will turn to you for answers about their prescription benefit and we want to share with you some resources for information about Medicare Part D.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have a webpage devoted to the needs of providers with respect to the Part D benefit. This webpage may be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/pdbma/provider.asp>.

Provider associations, such as the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association, as well as their national counterparts, are also great resources for learning about the new Part D benefit.

For those patients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, their prescription coverage will be provided by Medicare instead of Medicaid beginning January 1, 2006. This will be a significant change for them and for you. Most will be auto-enrolled into a prescription drug plan. The Oklahoma PDP list can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.medicare.gov/medicarerereform/mapdpdocs/PDPLandscapeok.pdf>

Oklahoma Medicaid will continue to provide limited coverage for those drugs not included in Part D, such as Claritin-OTC, Prilosec-OTC, barbiturates and the benzodiazepines. The list of drugs that Oklahoma Medicaid will continue to cover for dual eligibles can be accessed here:

<http://www.okhca.org/provider/types/pharmacy/covereddrugs.asp>

Those who do not qualify for Medicaid, but are low income are encouraged to apply for a program called "Extra Help". This program is administered by the Social Security Administration. "Extra Help" will pay the costs of premiums and deductibles as well as reduce cost-sharing and co-payments for qualified individuals. They must submit an application to receive this help. More information is available at

<http://www.ssa.gov/organizations/medicareoutreach2>. Patients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid are automatically qualified to receive the subsidy.

Medicare-eligible patients who now have some form of private prescription coverage will need to make a decision whether to continue with their current carrier or switch to a Medicare PDP. Their decision will be based on a number of factors including PDP network pharmacy participation and formulary coverage. It is important to refer these patients to their current source of prescription coverage for accurate information. Unless their current plan is considered "creditable coverage", they will be subject to a penalty for late enrollment if they do not enroll in Part D at their first available opportunity. Information on "creditable coverage" can be found here:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/Credcovrg.asp>

The late enrollment penalty will also apply when a patient who currently has no prescription coverage decides to apply for Part D after their first open enrollment period. The penalty is added to the monthly premium for the remainder of the patient's enrollment in Part D. Patients may call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit the www.medicare.gov website for further information.

Thank you for your continued service to Oklahoma's Medicaid clients.

**Happy Holidays to you and your staff from
*SoonerCare***