TO: ALL OFFICES

SUBJECT: MANUAL MATERIAL

OAC 317:50-3-1 through 50-3-16; and 50-5-1 through 50-5-16.

EXPLANATION: Policy revisions were approved by the Board and the Governor as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

Rules are issued to include language allowing for a new Home and Community Based Services Waiver program. The My Life, My Choice Waiver is targeted to members who are 20 to 65 years of age, have a physical disability and have been transitioned from a nursing facility to a home and community based setting through the Living Choice demonstration program. The new waiver allows members to continue receiving the same home and community based services offered through Living Choice.

Rules are issued to include language allowing for a new Home and Community Based Services Waiver. The Sooner Seniors Waiver is targeted to members who are age 65 or older, have a clinically documented degenerative disease process and have been transitioned from a nursing facility to a home and community based setting through the Living Choice demonstration program. The new waiver allows members to continue receiving the same home and community based services offered through Living Choice.

Original signed on 11-4-10

Lance Robertson, Director
Aging Services Division

Sandra Harrison, Coordinator
Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING MANUAL MATERIAL

OAC is the acronym for Oklahoma Administrative Code. If OAC appears before a number on an Appendix or before a Section in text, it means the Appendix or text contains rules or administrative law. Lengthy internal policies and procedures have the same Chapter number as the OAC Chapter to which they pertain following an "OKDHS" number, such as personnel policy at OKDHS:2-1 and personnel rules at OAC 340:2-1. The "340" is the Title number that designates OKDHS as the rulemaking agency; the "2" specifies the Chapter number; and the "1" specifies the Subchapter number.

The chronological order for filing manual material is: (1) OAC 340 by designated Chapter and Subchapter number; (2) if applicable, OKDHS numbered text for the designated Chapter and Subchapter; and (3) all OAC Appendices with the designated Chapter number. For example, the order for filing personnel policy is OAC 340:2-1, OKDHS:2-1, and OAC 340:2 Appendices behind all Chapter 2 manual material. Any questions or assistance with filing manual material will be addressed by contacting Policy Management Unit staff at 405-521-4326.

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317:50-3-1. Purpose

The My Life, My Choice Program is a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver used to finance non-institutional long-term care services through Oklahoma's SoonerCare program for a targeted group of physically disabled individuals. To be considered for My Life, My Choice Waiver Program services, individuals must meet the basic criteria set forth under 317:50-3-3.
317:50-3-2. Definitions

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

"ADL" means the activities of daily living. Activities of daily living are activities that reflect the member's ability to perform self-care tasks essential for sustaining health and safety such as:

(A) bathing,
(B) eating,
(C) dressing,
(D) grooming,
(E) transferring (includes getting in and out of a tub, bed to chair, etc.),
(F) mobility,
(G) toileting, and
(H) bowel/bladder control.

"ADLs score in high risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT ADL score is 10 or more which indicates the member needs some help with 5 ADLs or that the member cannot do 3 ADLs at all plus the member needs some help with 1 other ADL.

"ADLs score at the high end of the moderate risk range" means member's total weighted UCAT ADL score is 8 or 9 which indicates the member needs help with 4 ADLs or the member cannot do 3 ADLs at all.

"Cognitive Impairment" means that the person, as determined by the clinical judgment of the LTC Nurse does not have the capability to think, reason, remember or learn required for self-care, communicating needs, directing care givers and/or using appropriate judgment for maintenance of their own health or safety. The clinical judgment of cognitive impairment is based on MSQ performance in combination with a more general evaluation of cognitive function from interaction with the person during the UCAT assessment.

"Developmental Disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

(A) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
(B) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
(C) is likely to continue indefinitely;
(D) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
(E) self-care;
(F) receptive and expressive language;
(G) learning;
(H) mobility;
(I) self-direction;
(J) capacity for independent living;
(K) economic self-sufficiency; and
(L) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, supports, or other assistance that is of lifelong or extended duration and is individually planned and coordinated.

"Environment high risk" means member's UCAT Environment score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the physical environment is strongly negative or hazardous.

"Environment moderate risk" means member's UCAT Environment score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, many aspects of the physical environment are substandard or hazardous.

"Health Assessment high risk" means member's UCAT health assessment score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic health conditions, whose symptoms are rapidly deteriorating, uncontrolled, or not well controlled and requiring a high frequency or intensity of medical care/oversight to bring under control and whose functional capacity is so limited as to require full time assistance or care performed daily, by, or under the supervision of professional personnel and has multiple unmet needs for services available only through the My Life, My Choice program or a Nursing Facility (NF) and requires NF placement immediately if these needs cannot be met by other means.

"Health Assessment low risk" means member's health assessment score is 5 which indicates, in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic, stable, health conditions, whose symptoms are controlled or nearly controlled, which benefit from available, or usually available, medical treatment or corrective measures, and may have an unmet need for a service available only through the My Life, My Choice program or a Nursing Facility (NF) but is not likely to enter a NF if these needs are not met.

"Health Assessment moderate risk" means member's UCAT Health Assessment score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic changing health conditions, whose symptoms are fragile or worsening and require medical care/oversight, to bring under control or to maintain in a stable, controlled state and has multiple unmet needs for services available only through the My Life, My Choice program or a Nursing Facility (NF) and is likely to enter a NF if these needs are not met.

"IADL" means the instrumental activities of daily living.
"IADLs score in high risk range" means member's total weighted UCAT IADL score is 12 or more which indicates the member needs some help with 6 IADLs or cannot do 4 IADLs at all.

"Instrumental activities of daily living" means those activities that reflect the member's ability to perform household chores and tasks within the community essential for sustaining health and safety such as:

(A) shopping,
(B) cooking,
(C) cleaning,
(D) managing money,
(E) using a telephone,
(F) doing laundry,
(G) taking medication, and
(H) accessing transportation.

"Member Support high risk" means member's UCAT Member Support score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, excluding from consideration existing Ryan White CARE Act, Indian Health Service, Medicaid NF, My Life, My Choice and/or State Plan Personal Care services, very little or no support is available from informal and formal sources and the member requires additional care that is not available through Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other Federal entitlement programs.

"Member Support moderate risk" means member's UCAT Member Support score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, excluding from consideration existing Ryan White CARE Act, Indian Health Service, Medicaid NF, My Life, My Choice and/or State Plan Personal Care services, support from informal and formal sources is available, but overall, it is inadequate, changing, fragile or otherwise problematic and the member requires additional care that is not available through Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other federal entitlement programs.

"Mental Retardation" means that the person has, as determined by a PASRR level II evaluation, substantial limitations in functional ability due to significantly sub-average intellectual functioning related to an event occurring before the age of 18.

"MSQ" means the mental status questionnaire.

"MSQ score in high risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT MSQ score is 12 or more which indicates a severe orientation-memory-concentration impairment, or a severe memory impairment.

"MSQ score at the high end of the moderate risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT MSQ score is (10) or (11) which
indicates an orientation-memory-concentration impairment, or a significant memory impairment.

"Nutrition high risk" means a total weighted UCAT Nutrition score is 12 or more which indicates the member has significant eating difficulties combined with poor appetite, weight loss, and/or special diet requirements.

"Progressive degenerative disease process that responds to treatment" means a process such as, but not limited to, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's Disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), that, untreated, systematically impairs normal body function which leads to acute illness and/or disability but that reacts positively to a medically prescribed treatment intervention (usually medication) which arrests or significantly delays the destructive action of the process.

"Social Resources high risk" means a total weighted UCAT Social Resources score is 15 or more, which indicates the member lives alone, combined with none or very few social contacts and no supports in times of need.
317:50-3-3. My Life, My Choice program overview

(a) The My Life, My Choice program is a Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver used to finance noninstitutional long-term care services for a targeted group of physically disabled adults. My Life, My Choice services are outside the scope of state plan Medicaid services. The Waiver allows the OHCA to offer certain Home and Community Based services to an annually capped number of persons who are categorically needy (refer to OKDHS Appendix C-1, Schedule VIII. B. 1.) and without such services would be institutionalized.

(1) To be considered for My Life, My Choice services, individuals must meet the following criteria:

(A) be 20 to 64 years of age;
(B) be physically disabled; and
(C) have transitioned to a home and community based setting through the Living Choice Program;

(2) In addition, the individual must meet the following minimum UCAT criteria:

(A) The UCAT documents need for assistance to sustain health and safety as demonstrated by:

(i) either the ADLs or MSQ score is in the high risk range; or
(ii) any combination of two or more of the following:

(I) ADLs score is at the high end of moderate risk range; or
(II) MSQ score is at the high end of moderate risk range; or
(III) IADLs score is in the high risk range; or
(IV) Nutrition score is in the high risk range; or
(V) Health Assessment is in the moderate risk range, and, in addition;

(B) The UCAT documents absence of support or adequate environment to meet the needs to sustain health and safety as demonstrated by:

(i) Individual Support is moderate risk; or
(ii) Environment is high risk; or
(iii) Environment is moderate risk and Social Resources is in the high risk range; or, regardless of whether criteria under (A) of need and (B) of absence of support are met;

(C) The UCAT documents that:

(i) the individual has a clinically documented progressive degenerative disease process that will produce health deterioration to an extent that the person will meet OAC 317:50-3-3(a)(2)(A) criteria if untreated; and
(ii) the individual previously has required hospital or NF level of care services for treatment related to the
condition; and
(iii) a medically prescribed treatment regimen exists that will significantly arrest or delay the disease process; and
(iv) only by means of My Life, My Choice Program eligibility will the individual have access to the required treatment regimen to arrest or delay the disease process.

(3) **NF Level of Care Services.** To be eligible for NF level of care services, meeting the minimum UCAT criteria demonstrates the individual must:

(A) require a treatment plan involving the planning and administration of services that require the skills of licensed or otherwise certified technical or professional personnel, and are provided directly or under the supervision of such personnel;
(B) have a physical impairment or combination of physical, mental and/or functional impairments;
(C) require professional nursing supervision (medication, hygiene and/or dietary assistance);
(D) lack the ability to adequately and appropriately care for self or communicate needs to others;
(E) require medical care and treatment in order to minimize physical health regression or deterioration;
(F) require care that is not available through family and friends, Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other federal entitlement program with the exception of Indian Health Services; and
(G) require care that cannot be met through Medicaid State Plan Services, including Personal Care, if financially eligible.

(4) Meet service eligibility criteria [see OAC 317:50-3-3(c)].
(5) Meet program eligibility criteria [see OAC 317:50-3-3(d)].

(b) Services provided through the My Life, My Choice Waiver are:

(1) case management;
(2) respite;
(3) adult day health care;
(4) environmental modifications;
(5) specialized medical equipment and supplies;
(6) physical therapy;
(7) occupational therapy;
(8) respiratory therapy;
(9) speech therapy;
(10) assistive technology;
(11) audiology treatment and evaluation;
(12) dental services and treatment up to $1,000 annually;
(13) family counseling;
(14) family training;
(15) independent living skills training;
(16) nutrition services;
(17) psychiatry;
(18) psychological services;
(19) vision services;
(20) pharmacological evaluations;
(21) agency companion;
(22) advanced supportive/restorative assistance;
(23) skilled nursing and private duty nursing;
(24) home delivered meals;
(25) hospice care;
(26) medically necessary prescription drugs within the limits of the waiver;
(27) personal care (state plan), or My Life, My Choice personal care;
(28) Personal Emergency Response System (PERS);
(29) Self-directed services;
(30) all other SoonerCare medical services within the scope of the State Plan, including SoonerRide non-emergency transportation.

(c) A service eligibility determination is made using the following criteria:

(1) an open My Life, My Choice Waiver Program waiver slot, as authorized by the waiver document approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is available to assure federal participation in payment for services to the member. If it is determined that all My Life, My Choice Waiver slots are filled, the individual cannot be certified as eligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver services and the individual's name is placed on a waiting list for entry as an open slot becomes available. My Life, My Choice Waiver slots and corresponding waiting lists, if necessary, are maintained.
(2) the individual is in the My Life, My Choice Waiver targeted service group. The target group is an individual who is age 20 to 64 with a physical disability.
(3) the individual does not pose a physical threat to self or others as supported by professional documentation.
(4) members of the household or persons who routinely visit the household, as supported by professional documentation, do not pose a threat of harm or injury to the individual or other household visitors.

(d) The My Life, My Choice Waiver program eligibility determination is made through the service plan approval process. The following criteria are used to make the determination that an individual is
not eligible:
(1) if the individual's needs as identified by UCAT and other professional assessments cannot be met through My Life, My Choice Waiver program services, SoonerCare State Plan services and other formal or informal services. The State, as part of the waiver program approval authorization, assures CMS that each waiver member's health, safety, or welfare can be maintained in their home. If an individual's identified needs cannot be met through provision of My Life, My Choice Waiver program or SoonerCare State Plan services and other formal or informal services are not in place or immediately available to meet those needs, the individual's health, safety or welfare in their home cannot be assured.
(2) if the individual poses a physical threat to self or others as supported by professional documentation.
(3) if other members of the household or persons who routinely visit the household, as supported by professional documentation, pose a threat of harm or injury to the individual or other household visitors.
(4) if the individual's needs are being met, or do not require My Life, My Choice Waiver services to be met, or if the individual would not require institutionalization if needs are not met.
(5) if, after the service plan is developed, the risk to individual health and safety is not acceptable to the individual, or to the interdisciplinary service plan team, or to the OHCA.

(e) Professional documentation is provided to support the recommendation for redetermination of program eligibility. The service providers continue providing services according to the service plan as provider safety permits until the member is removed from the My Life, My Choice Waiver program. As a part of the procedures requesting redetermination of program eligibility, the OHCA will provide technical assistance to the Provider for transitioning the member to other services.
(f) Individuals determined ineligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services are notified in writing of the determination and of their right to appeal the decision.
317:50-3-4. Application for My Life, My Choice Waiver services
(a) Within 60 days of completion of the Living Choice demonstration program, members choosing to stay in a home and community based setting may apply for transition into the My Life, My Choice Waiver. In order to transition from the Living Choice demonstration program to the My Life, My Choice Waiver, a recertification of eligibility is required. The member must meet all financial and medical eligibility requirements for recertification. The same application and eligibility processes used to certify members for SoonerCare long term care and Living Choice services will be reviewed to ensure any changes in member status will not affect eligibility for the My Life, My Choice Waiver. The original application and eligibility processes are set forth in 317:50-3-4(a)(1) through 317:50-3-6 below.

(1) The application process is initiated by the receipt of a UCAT, Part I or by an oral request for services. A written financial application is not required for an individual who is a SoonerCare member at the time of application. A financial application for My Life, My Choice Waiver services consists of the Medical Assistance Application form. The form is signed by the applicant, parent, spouse, guardian or someone else acting on the applicant's behalf.

(A) All conditions of financial eligibility must be verified and documented in the case record. When current information is already available that establishes financial eligibility, such information may be used by recording source and date of information. If the applicant also wishes to apply for a State Supplemental Payment, either the applicant or his/her guardian must sign the application form.

(B) An individual requesting waiver services, or the individual's community spouse may request an assessment of resources available to each spouse by using OKDHS form MA-11, Assessment of Assets, when SoonerCare application is not being made. The individual and/or spouse must provide documentation of resources. The assessment reflects all countable resources of the couple (owned individually or as a couple) and establishes the spousal share to be protected when subsequent determination of SoonerCare long-term care eligibility is made.

(C) When SoonerCare application is being made, an assessment of resources must be completed if it was not completed when the individual entered the NF or began receiving home and community based services. For applicants of the My Life, My Choice waiver, those resources owned by the couple the month the application was made determines the spousal share of resources. If the individual applied for SoonerCare at the
time of entry into the Living Choice Program, Form MA-11 is not appropriate. However, the spousal share must be determined using the resource information provided on the SoonerCare application form and computed using OKDHS form MA-12, Title XIX Worksheet.

(2) The date of application is the date the signed application is received or the date when the request for SoonerCare is made orally and the financial application form is signed later. The date of the oral request is noted above the date the form is signed.

(b) **My Life, My Choice Waiver waiting list procedures.** My Life, My Choice Waiver Program "available capacity in the month" is the number of additional members that may be enrolled in the Program in a given month without exceeding, on an annualized basis, the maximum number authorized by the waiver to be served in the waiver year.
317:50-3-5. My Life, My Choice Waiver program medical eligibility determination

A medical eligibility determination is made for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services based on the Uniform Comprehensive Assessment Tool (UCAT) III assessment, professional judgment and the determination that the member has unmet care needs that require My Life, My Choice Waiver Program, or NF level services to assure member health and safety. My Life, My Choice Waiver services are designed to be a continuation of support for the informal care that is being provided in the member's home. These services are not intended to take the place of regular care provided by family members and/or by significant others. When there is an informal (not paid) system of care available in the home, My Life, My Choice Waiver service provision will supplement the system within the limitations of My Life, My Choice Waiver Program policy.

(1) Categorical relationship must be established for determination of eligibility for My Life, My Choice Waiver services. If categorical relationship to disability has not already been established, the Level of Care Evaluation Unit (LOCEU) will render a decision on categorical relationship to the disabled using the same definition used by SSA. A follow-up is required with the Social Security Administration to be sure their disability decision agrees with the decision of LOCEU.

(2) Community agencies complete the UCAT, Part I and forward the form to the OHCA. If the UCAT, Part I indicates that the applicant does not qualify for SoonerCare long-term care services, the applicant is referred to appropriate community resources.

(3) If the UCAT indicates member qualification for SoonerCare services and the needs of the member require an immediate interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting with home health agency nurse participation to develop a care plan and service plan, the need is documented.

(4) If, based upon the information obtained during the assessment, the nurse determines that the member may be at risk for health and safety, OKDHS Adult Protective Services (APS) staff are notified immediately and the referral is documented on the UCAT.

(5) Within ten (10) working days of receipt of a complete My Life, My Choice Waiver application, medical eligibility is determined using level of care criteria and service eligibility criteria.

(6) Once eligibility has been established, notification is given to the member and the case management provider so that care plan and service plan development may begin. The member's case management provider is notified of the member's name, address,
case number and social security number, the units of case
management and, if applicable, the number of units of home
health agency nurse evaluation authorized for care plan and
service plan development, whether the needs of the member
require an immediate IDT meeting with home health agency nurse
participation and the effective date for member entry into the
My Life, My Choice Waiver Program.
(7) If the member has a current certification and requests a
change to My Life, My Choice Waiver services, a new UCAT is
required. The UCAT is also updated when a member requests a
change from My Life, My Choice Waiver services to State Plan
Personal Care services. If a member is receiving My Life, My
Choice Waiver services and requests to go to a nursing facility,
a new medical level of care decision is not needed.
(8) When a UCAT assessment has been completed more than 90 days
prior to submission for determination of a medical decision, a
new assessment is required.
317:50-3-6. Determining financial eligibility for the My Life, My Choice Waiver program

Financial eligibility for My Life, My Choice Waiver services is determined using the rules on income and resources according to the category to which the individual is related. Only individuals who are categorically related to ABD may be served through the My Life, My Choice Waiver. Income, resources and expenses are evaluated on a monthly basis for all individuals requesting payment for the My Life, My Choice Waiver Program. In determining income and resources for the individual categorically related to ABD, the "family" includes the individual and spouse, if any. However, consideration is not given to the income and resources of a spouse included in a TANF case. If an individual and spouse cease to live together for reasons other than institutionalization, income and resources are considered available to each other through the month in which they are separated. Mutual consideration ceases with the month after the month in which the separation occurs. Any amounts which are actually contributed to the spouse after the mutual consideration has ended are considered. Financial eligibility for individuals in My Life, My Choice Waiver Program services is as follows:

(1) Individual without a spouse. For an individual without a spouse, the following rules are used to determine financial eligibility.

(A) Income eligibility. To determine the income of the individual, the rules in (i) through (iii) of this subparagraph apply.

(i) If payment of income is made to the individual and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to the individual's interest.

(ii) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of the instrument.

(iii) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver services. If the individual's gross income exceeds that standard, refer to SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

(B) Resource eligibility. In order for an individual without a spouse to be eligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver services, his/her countable resources cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual listed in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.
(C) **Equity in capital resources.** If the equity in the individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources can not reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(2) **Individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or over and in a mental health hospital.** For an individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or over and in a mental health hospital, resources are determined for each individual as the amount owned by each individual plus one-half of the jointly owned resources of the couple. Once this separation of assets is made, a resource of either spouse is not considered available to the other during the receipt of HCBW program services.

(A) **Income eligibility.** Income is determined separately for an individual and his/her spouse if the spouse is in a HCBW program, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or older and in a mental health hospital. The income of either spouse is not considered as available to the other during the receipt of My Life, My Choice Waiver services. The rules in (i) - (v) of this subparagraph apply in this situation:

(i) If payment of income is made solely to one or the other, the income is considered available only to that individual.
(ii) If payment of income is made to both, one-half is considered for each individual.
(iii) If payment of income is made to either one or both and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to either spouse's interest (if payment is to that spouse) or one-half of the joint interest if no interest is specified.
(iv) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of the instrument.
(v) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver services. If the
individual's gross income exceeds this standard, refer to SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

(B) **Resource eligibility.** In order for an individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or older and in a mental health hospital to be eligible for the My Life, My Choice Waiver services, his/her countable resources cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual listed in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.

(C) **Equity in capital resources.** If the equity in the individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources can not reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(3) **Individual with a spouse in the home who is not in a Home and Community Based Waiver Program.** When only one individual of a couple in their own home is in a HCBW Program, income and resources are determined separately. However, the income and resources of the individual who is not in the HCBW program (community spouse) must be included on the application form. At redetermination of eligibility, the community spouse's income must be included in the review process. During any month that the individual is in My Life, My Choice Waiver program services, the income of the community spouse is not considered available to that individual. The following rules are used to determine the income and resources of each:

(A) **Income eligibility.** To determine the income of both spouses, the rules in (i) - (v) of this subparagraph apply.

(i) If payment of income is made solely to one or the other, the income is considered available only to that individual.

(ii) If payment of income is made to both, one-half is considered for each individual.

(iii) If payment of income is made to either one or both and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to either spouse's interest (if payment is to that spouse) or one-half of the joint interest if no interest is specified.
(iv) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of the instrument.

(v) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual in the My Life, My Choice Waiver program cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for care. If the individual's gross income exceeds this standard, refer to SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

(B) Resource eligibility. To determine resource eligibility, it is necessary to determine the amount of resources for both spouses for the month of the individual's application for the My Life, My Choice Waiver program. Of the resources available to the couple (both individual and joint ownership) an amount will be protected for the community spouse which will not be considered available to the spouse receiving My Life, My Choice Waiver program services. The amount determined as the spousal share is used for all subsequent applications for SoonerCare, regardless of changes in the couple's resources. The protected spousal share cannot be changed for any reason. When application for SoonerCare is made at the same time the individual begins receiving My Life, My Choice program services, OKDHS Form 08MA012E, Title XIX Worksheet, is used.

(i) The first step in the assessment process is to establish the total amount of resources for the couple during the month of application of the spouse into the My Life, My Choice Waiver program (regardless of payment source).

(ii) The community spouse's share is equal to one-half of the total resources of the couple not to exceed the maximum amount of resource value that can be protected for the community spouse, as shown on OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule XI.

(iii) The minimum resource standard for the community spouse, as established by the OHCA, is found on OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule XI. When the community spouse's share is less than the minimum standard, an amount may be deemed from the other spouse's share to ensure the minimum resource standard for the community spouse. If the community spouse's share equals or exceeds the minimum resource standard, deeming cannot be done.

(iv) If deeming is necessary to meet the minimum resource standard for the community spouse, the amount that is deemed must be legally transferred to the community spouse.
within one year of the effective date of certification for SoonerCare. At the first redetermination of eligibility, the worker must document that the resources have been transferred. After the first year of SoonerCare eligibility, resources of the community spouse will not be available to the other spouse and resources cannot be deemed to the community spouse.

(v) After the month in which the institutionalized spouse and community spouse have met the resource standard and the institutionalized spouse is determined eligible for benefits, no resources of the community spouse, regardless of value, will be considered available to the institutionalized spouse. If the resources of the community spouse grow to exceed the original deemed amount, the State cannot require the community spouse to apply any of these excess resources toward the cost of the care of the institutionalized spouse.

(vi) When determining eligibility for SoonerCare, the community spouse's share of resources is protected and the remainder considered available to the spouse receiving My Life, My Choice Waiver program services.

(vii) The resources determined in (i) - (vi) of this subparagraph for the individual receiving My Life, My Choice Waiver program services cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual as shown in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.

(viii) Once the dollar value of the community spouse's share of resources is established for the month of the other spouse's entry into the My Life, My Choice Waiver program, that amount is used when determining resource eligibility for a subsequent SoonerCare application for Long-Term Care for either spouse.

(ix) Once a determination of eligibility for SoonerCare is made, either spouse is entitled to a fair hearing. A fair hearing regarding the determination of the community spouse's resource allowance is held within 30 days of the date of the request for the hearing. Either spouse is entitled to a fair hearing if dissatisfied with a determination of:

(I) the community spouse's monthly income allowance;
(II) the amount of monthly income otherwise available to the community spouse;
(III) determination of the spousal share of resource;
(IV) the attribution of resources (amount deemed); or
(V) the determination of the community spouse's resource allowance.
(x) The rules on determination of income and resources are applicable only when an individual receiving My Life, My Choice Waiver program services is likely to remain under care for 30 consecutive days. The 30-day requirement is considered to have been met even if a hospital stay interrupts it or the individual is deceased before the 30-day period ends.

(C) **Excess resources.** If the equity in the individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources cannot reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(4) **Transfer of assets on or after August 11, 1993 but before February 8, 2006.** An institutionalized individual, an institutionalized individual's spouse, the guardian or legal representative of the individual or individual's spouse who disposes of assets on or after August 11, 1993 but before February 8, 2006 for less than fair market value on or after the look-back date specified in (A) of this paragraph subjects the individual to a penalty period for the disposal of such assets.

(A) For an institutionalized individual, the look-back date is 36 months before the first day the individual is both institutionalized and has applied for SoonerCare. However, in the case of payments from a trust or portions of a trust that are treated as transfers of assets, the look back date is 60 months.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, an "institutionalized" individual is one who is receiving HCBW program services.

(C) The penalty period begins the first day of the first month during which assets have been transferred and which does not occur in any other period of ineligibility due to an asset transfer. When there have been multiple transfers, all transferred assets are added together to determine the penalty.

(D) The penalty period consists of a period of ineligibility (whole number of months) determined by dividing the total uncompensated value of the asset by the average monthly cost ($2,000) to a private patient in an NF or Hospital level of care in Oklahoma. In this calculation, any partial month is dropped. There is no limit to the length of the penalty.
period for these transfers. Uncompensated value is defined as the difference between the fair market value at the time of transfer less encumbrances and the amount received for the resource.

(E) Assets are defined as all income and resources of the individual and the individual's spouse, including any income or resources which the individual or such individual's spouse is entitled to but does not receive because of action:

(i) by the individual or such individual's spouse;
(ii) by a person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or such individual's spouse; or
(iii) by any person, including any court or administrative body acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or such individual's spouse.

(F) A penalty would not apply if:

(i) the title to the individual's home was transferred to:
   (I) the spouse;
   (II) the individual's child who is under age 21 or is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security;
   (III) a sibling who has equity interest in the home and resided in the home for at least one year immediately prior to the institutionalization of the individual; or
   (IV) the individual's son or daughter who resided in the home and provided care for at least two years immediately prior to the individual's institutionalization.

(ii) the individual can show satisfactorily that the intent was to dispose of assets at fair market value or that the transfer was exclusively for a purpose other than eligibility. It is presumed that any transfer of assets made for less than fair market value was made in order to qualify the individual for SoonerCare. In order to rebut this presumption, the individual must present compelling evidence that a transfer was made for reasons other than to qualify for SoonerCare. It is not sufficient for an individual to claim that assets were transferred solely for the purposes of allowing another to have them with ostensibly no thought of SoonerCare if the individual qualifies for SoonerCare as a result of the transfer.

(iii) the transfer was to the community spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the community spouse in an amount equal to the community spouse's asset allowance.
(iv) the asset was transferred to the individual's child who is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security. The transfer may be to a trust established for the benefit of the individual's child.
(v) the asset was transferred to or from the spouse (either community or institutionalized) or to another person for the sole benefit of the spouse if the assets are not subsequently transferred to still another person for less than fair market value.
(vi) the asset is transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of a disabled individual under the age of 65.
(vii) the denial would result in undue hardship. Such determination should be referred to OKDHS State Office for a decision.

(G) The individual is advised by a written notice of a period of ineligibility due to transfer of assets. The notice explains the period of ineligibility for payment of My Life, My Choice Waiver program services and the continuance of eligibility for other SoonerCare services.

(H) The penalty period can be ended by either all assets being restored or commensurate return being made to the individual.

(I) Once the restoration or commensurate return is made, eligibility is re-determined considering the value of the restored asset or the amount of commensurate return.

(J) The restoration or commensurate return will not entitle the member to benefits for the period of time that the asset remained transferred. An applicant cannot be certified for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services for a period of asset ineligibility.

(K) Assets which are held by an individual with another person or persons, whether held in joint tenancy or tenancy in common or similar arrangement, and the individual's ownership or control of the asset is reduced or eliminated is considered a transfer.

(L) When a transfer of assets by the spouse of an individual results in a period of ineligibility and the spouse who made such transfer subsequently becomes institutionalized, the period of ineligibility will be apportioned between the two institutionalized spouses.

(5) **Transfer of assets on or after February 8, 2006.** An institutionalized individual, an institutionalized individual's spouse, the guardian or legal representative of the individual or individual's spouse who disposes of assets on or after February 8, 2006 for less than fair market value on or after the
look-back date specified in (A) of this paragraph subjects the individual to a penalty period for the disposal of such assets.

(A) For an institutionalized individual, the look-back date is 60 months before the first day the individual is both institutionalized and has applied for SoonerCare. However, individuals that have purchased an Oklahoma Long-Term Care Partnership Program approved policy may be completely or partially exempted from this Section depending on the monetary extent of the insurance benefits paid.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, an "institutionalized" individual is one who is receiving My Life, My Choice program services.

(C) The penalty period will begin with the later of:

(i) the first day of a month during which assets have been transferred for less than fair market value; or

(ii) the date on which the individual is:

   (I) eligible for medical assistance; and

   (II) receiving institutional level of care services that, were it not for the imposition of the penalty period, would be covered by SoonerCare.

(D) The penalty period:

(i) cannot begin until the expiration of any existing period of ineligibility;

(ii) will not be interrupted or temporarily suspended once it is imposed;

(iii) when there have been multiple transfers, all transferred assets are added together to determine the penalty.

(E) The penalty period consists of a period of ineligibility determined by dividing the total uncompensated value of the asset by the average monthly cost to a private patient in a nursing facility in Oklahoma shown on OKDHS form 08AX001E. In this calculation, the penalty must include a partial month disqualification based upon the relationship between that fractional amount and the average monthly cost to a private patient in a nursing facility in Oklahoma. There is no limit to the length of the penalty period for these transfers. Uncompensated value is defined as the difference between the fair market value at the time of transfer less encumbrances and the amount received for the resource.

(F) Assets are defined as all income and resources of the individual and the individual's spouse, including any income or resources which the individual or such individual's spouse is entitled to but does not receive because of action:

   (i) by the individual or such individual's spouse;
(ii) by a person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or such individual's spouse; or (iii) by any person, including any court or administrative body acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or such individual's spouse.

(G) Special Situations.

(1) Separate Maintenance or Divorce.

(I) There shall be presumed to be a transfer of assets if an applicant or member receives less than half of the couple's resources pursuant to a Decree of Separate Maintenance or a Decree of Divorce.

(II) There shall be presumed to be a transfer of assets if the income is reduced to an amount lower than the individual's own income plus half of the joint income. The transfer penalty shall be calculated monthly.

(III) Assets which were exempt lose the exempt character when not retained by the applicant or member in the divorce or separate maintenance. These assets, if received by the other spouse, are counted when determining the penalty.

(IV) The applicant or member may rebut the presumption of transfer by showing compelling evidence that the uneven division of income or resources was the result of factors unrelated to SoonerCare eligibility.

(ii) Inheritance from a spouse.

(I) Oklahoma law provides that a surviving spouse is entitled to a minimum portion of a deceased spouse's probate estate. The amount depends on several factors.

(II) It is considered a transfer if the deceased spouse's will places all, or some, of the statutory share the applicant or member is entitled to receive in a trust which the applicant or member does not have unfettered access to or leaves less than the statutory amount to the applicant or member, who does not then elect to receive the statutory share in probate proceedings.

(H) A penalty would not apply if:

(i) the title to the individual's home was transferred to:

(I) the spouse; or

(II) the individual's child who is under age 21 or is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security; or
(III) a sibling who has equity interest in the home and resided in the home for at least one year immediately prior to the institutionalization of the individual; or
(IV) the individual's son or daughter who resided in the home and provided care for at least two years immediately prior to the individual's institutionalization.

(ii) the individual can show satisfactorily that the intent was to dispose of assets at fair market value or that the transfer was exclusively for a purpose other than eligibility. It is presumed that any transfer of assets made for less than fair market value was made in order to qualify the individual for SoonerCare. In order to rebut this presumption, the individual must present compelling evidence that a transfer was made for reasons other than to qualify for SoonerCare. It is not sufficient for an individual to claim that assets were transferred solely for the purposes of allowing another to have them with ostensibly no thought of SoonerCare if the individual qualifies for SoonerCare as a result of the transfer.

(iii) the transfer was to the community spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the community spouse in an amount equal to the community spouse's asset allowance. "Sole benefit" means that the amount transferred will be used for the benefit of the community spouse during his or her expected life.

(iv) the asset was transferred to the individual's child who is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security. The transfer may be to a trust established for the benefit of the individual's child.

(v) the asset was transferred to or from the spouse (either community or institutionalized) or to another person for the sole benefit of the spouse if the assets are not subsequently transferred to still another person for less than fair market value. "Sole benefit" means that the amount transferred will be used for the benefit of the spouse (either community or institutionalized) during his or her expected life.

(vi) the asset is transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of a disabled individual under the age of 65.

(vii) the denial would result in undue hardship. Undue hardship exists when application of a transfer of assets penalty would deprive the individual of medical care such that the individual's health or life would be endangered;
or of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life.

(I) An undue hardship does not exist if the individual willingly transferred assets for the purpose of qualifying for SoonerCare services through the use of the undue hardship exemption.
(II) Such determination should be referred to OKDHS State Office for a decision.
(III) If the undue hardship exists because the applicant was exploited, legal action must be pursued to return the transferred assets to the applicant before a hardship waiver will be granted. Pursuing legal action means an APS referral has been made to the district attorney's office or a lawsuit has been filed and is being pursued against the perpetrator.

(I) The individual is advised by a written notice of a period of ineligibility due to transfer of assets, a timely process for determining whether an undue hardship waiver will be granted and a process for an adverse determination appeal. The notice explains the period of ineligibility for payment of My Life, My Choice Waiver program services and the continuance of eligibility for other SoonerCare services.
(J) The penalty period can be ended by either all assets being restored or commensurate return being made to the individual.
(K) Once the restoration or commensurate return is made, eligibility is re-determined considering the value of the restored asset or the amount of commensurate return.
(L) The restoration or commensurate return will not entitle the member to benefits for the period of time that the asset remained transferred. An applicant cannot be certified for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services for a period of asset ineligibility.
(M) Assets which are held by an individual with another person or persons, whether held in joint tenancy or tenancy in common or similar arrangement, and the individual's ownership or control of the asset is reduced or eliminated is considered a transfer. The exception to this rule is if ownership of a joint account is divided according to the amount contributed by each owner.
   (i) Documentation must be provided to show each co-owner's contribution;
   (ii) The funds contributed by the applicant or SoonerCare member end up in an account owned solely by the applicant or member.
(N) When a transfer of assets by the spouse of an individual
results in a period of ineligibility and the spouse who made such transfer subsequently becomes institutionalized, the period of ineligibility will be apportioned between the two institutionalized spouses.

(6) **Commensurate return.** Commensurate return for purposes of this Section is defined as actual money payment or documentation of money spent on the member's behalf; i.e., property taxes, medical debts, nursing care expenses, etc., corresponding to the market value of the transferred property. The definition does not include personal services, labor or provision of rent-free shelter. It also does not include a monetary value assigned and projected for future payment either by cash or provision of services. Any transfer of property within the five years prior to application or during receipt of assistance must be analyzed in regard to commensurate return as well as determination of intent.
317:50-3-7. Certification for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services

(a) Financial certification period for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services. The financial certification period for the My Life, My Choice Waiver program is 12 months.

(b) Medical Certification period for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services. The medical certification period for My Life, My Choice Waiver program services is 12 months. Reassessment and redetermination of medical eligibility is completed in coordination with the annual recertification of the member's service plan. If documentation supports a reasonable expectation that the member will not continue to meet medical eligibility criteria or have a need for long term care services for more than 12 months, an independent evaluation of medical eligibility is completed before the end of the current medical certification period.
317:50-3-8. Redetermination of eligibility for My Life, My Choice Waiver services

A redetermination of medical and financial eligibility must be completed prior to the end of the certification period.
317:50-3-9. Member annual level of care re-evaluation and annual re-authorization of service plan

(a) Annually, the case manager reassesses the member's needs and the service plan, especially with respect to progress of the member toward service plan goals and objectives. Based on the reassessment, the case manager develops a new service plan with the member and service providers, as appropriate, and submits the new service plan for certification along with the supporting documentation and the assessment of the existing service plan. The case manager initiates the fourth quarter monitoring to allow sufficient time for certification of a new service plan prior to the expiration date on the existing service plan.

(b) At a maximum of every 11 months, the case manager makes a home visit to evaluate the My Life, My Choice Waiver member using the UCAT, Parts I and III and other information as necessary as part of the annual service plan development process.

(1) The case manager's assessment of a member done within a 60-day period prior to the existing service plan end date is the basis for medical eligibility redetermination.

(2) As part of the service plan recertification process, the member is evaluated for the continued need for Nursing Facility level of care.

(3) Based on evaluation of the UCAT, a determination of continued medical eligibility is made and recertification of medical eligibility is done prior to the expiration date of current medical eligibility certification. If medical eligibility recertification is not made prior to current medical eligibility expiration, the existing medical eligibility certification is automatically extended until recertification is determined or for 60 days, whichever is less. If the member no longer meets medical eligibility, upon making the level of care determination, the member's "medical eligibility end date" is updated in the system. The member's case manager is notified that the member has been determined to no longer meet medical eligibility for My Life, My Choice Waiver services as of the effective date of the eligibility determination. The member is notified and if the member requests, the case manager helps the member arrange alternate services in place of My Life, My Choice Waiver services.
317:50-3-10. My Life, My Choice Waiver services during hospitalization or nursing facility placement

If a member requires hospital or nursing facility services, the case manager assists the member in accessing institutional care, periodically monitors the member's progress during the institutional stay and, as appropriate, updates the service plan and prepares services to start on the date the member is discharged from the institution and returns home.

(1) Hospital discharge. When the member returns home from a hospital or when notified of the member's anticipated discharge date, the case manager notifies relevant providers and coordinates the resumption of services.

(2) NF placement of less than 30 days. When the member returns home from a NF stay of 30 days or less or when notified of the member's anticipated discharge date the case manager notifies relevant providers and coordinates the resumption of My Life, My Choice Waiver services in the home.

(3) NF placement greater than 30 days. When the member is scheduled to be discharged and return home from a NF stay that is greater than 30 days, the member's case manager expedites the restart of My Life, My Choice Waiver services for the member.
317:50-3-11. Closure or termination of My Life, My Choice Waiver services

(a) **Voluntary closure of My Life, My Choice Waiver services.** If the member requests a lower level of care than My Life, My Choice Waiver services or if the member agrees that My Life, My Choice Waiver services are no longer needed to meet his/her needs, a medical decision is not needed. The closure request is completed and signed by the member and the case manager and placed in the member's case record. Documentation is made of all circumstances involving the reasons for the voluntary termination of services and alternatives for services if written request for closure cannot be secured.

(b) **Closure due to financial or medical ineligibility.** The process for closure due to financial or medical ineligibility is described in this subsection.

(1) **Financial ineligibility.** Anytime it is determined that a member does not meet the financial eligibility criteria, the member and provider are notified of financial ineligibility. A medical eligibility redetermination is not required when a financial ineligibility period does not exceed the medical certification period.

(2) **Medical ineligibility.** When the member is found to no longer be medically eligible for My Life, My Choice Waiver services, the individual and provider are notified of the decision.

(c) **Closure due to other reasons.** Refer to OAC 317:50-3-3(d).

(d) **Resumption of My Life, My Choice Waiver services.** If a member approved for My Life, My Choice Waiver services has been without services for less than 90 days and has a current medical and financial eligibility determination, services may be resumed using the previously approved service plan. If a member decides he/she desires to have his/her services restarted after 90 days, the member must request the services.
317:50-3-12. Eligible providers

My Life, My Choice Program service providers, must be certified by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) and all providers must have a current signed SoonerCare contract on file.

(1) The provider programmatic certification process verifies that the provider meets licensure, certification and training standards as specified in the Waiver document and agrees to My Life, My Choice Program Conditions of Participation. Providers must obtain programmatic certification to be My Life, My Choice Program certified.

(2) The provider financial certification process verifies that the provider uses sound business management practices and has a financially stable business.

(3) Providers may fail to gain or may lose Waiver Program certification due to failure to meet either programmatic or financial standards.

(4) At a minimum, provider financial certification is reevaluated annually.

(5) Providers of Medical Equipment and Supplies, Environmental Modifications, Personal Emergency Response Systems, Hospice, and NF Respite services do not have a programmatic evaluation after the initial certification.

(6) OHCA may authorize a legally responsible family member (spouse or legal guardian) of an adult member to be SoonerCare reimbursed under the My Life, My Choice Program as a service provider, if the provider meets all of the following authorization criteria and monitoring provisions:

(A) Authorization for a legally responsible family member to be the care provider for a member may occur only if the member is offered a choice of providers and documentation demonstrates that:

(i) either no other provider is available; or
(ii) available providers are unable to provide necessary care to the member; or
(iii) the needs of the member are so extensive that the spouse or legal guardian who provides the care is prohibited from working outside the home due to the member's need for care.

(B) The service must:

(i) meet the definition of a service/support as outlined in the federally approved Waiver document;
(ii) be necessary to avoid institutionalization;
(iii) be a service/support that is specified in the individual service plan;
(iv) be provided by a person who meets the provider qualifications and training standards specified in the
Waiver for that service;

(v) be paid at a rate that does not exceed that which
would otherwise be paid to a provider of a similar service
and does not exceed what is allowed by the OHCA for the
payment of personal care or personal assistance services;

(vi) not be an activity that the spouse or legal guardian
would ordinarily perform or is responsible to perform. If
any of the following criteria are met, assistance or care
provided by the spouse or guardian will be determined to
exceed the extent and/or nature of the assistance they
would be expected to ordinarily provide in their role as
spouse or guardian:

(I) spouse or guardian has resigned from full-
time/part-time employment to provide care for the
member; or

(II) spouse or guardian has reduced employment from
full-time to part-time to provide care for the member;
or

(III) spouse or guardian has taken a leave of absence
without pay to provide care for the member; or

(IV) spouse or guardian provides assistance/care for
the member 35 or more hours per week without pay and
the member has remaining unmet needs because no other
provider is available due to the nature of the
assistance/care, special language or communication, or
intermittent hours of care requirements of the member.

(C) The spouse or legal guardian who is a service provider
will comply with the following:

(i) not provide more than 40 hours of services in a seven
day period;

(ii) planned work schedules must be available in advance
to the member's Case Manager, and variations to the
schedule must be noted and supplied two weeks in advance
to the Case Manager unless change is due to an emergency;

(iii) maintain and submit time sheets and other required
documentation for hours paid; and

(iv) be documented in the service plan as the member's
care provider.

(D) In addition to case management, monitoring, and reporting
activities required for all Waiver services, the state is
obligated to additional monitoring requirements when members
elect to use a spouse or legal guardian as a paid service
provider. The OHCA will monitor through documentation
submitted by the Case Manager the following:

(i) at least quarterly reviews by the Case Manager of
expenditures and the health, safety, and welfare status of

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the individual member; and
(ii) face-to-face visits with the member by the Case
Manager on at least a semi annual basis.

(7) The OHCA periodically performs a programmatic audit of Case
Management, Home Care (providers of Skilled Nursing, State Plan
Personal Care, In-Home Respite, Advanced Supportive/Restorative
Assistance and Therapy Services), and Self-Directed service
providers. If due to a programmatic audit, a provider Plan of
Correction is required, the OHCA stops new case referrals to the
provider until the Plan of Correction has been approved and
implemented. Depending on the nature and severity of problems
discovered during a programmatic audit, at the discretion of the
OHCA, members determined to be at risk for health or safety may
be transferred from a provider requiring a Plan of Correction to
another provider.

(8) As additional providers are certified or if a provider loses
certification, the OHCA provides notice to appropriate personnel
in counties affected by the certification changes.
317:50-3-13. Coverage

Individuals receiving Waiver services must have been determined to be eligible for the program and must have an approved plan of care. Any My Life, My Choice Program service provided must be listed on the approved plan of care and must be necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member. Waiver services which are expansions of Oklahoma Medicaid State Plan services may only be provided after the member has exhausted these services available under the State Plan.

(1) To allow for development of administrative structures and provider capacity to adequately deliver Self-Directed services and Supports, availability of Self-Direction is limited to My Life, My Choice Program members that reside in counties that have sufficient provider capacity to offer the Self-Directed Service option as determined by OHCA.

(2) Case Managers within the Self-Directed Services approved area will provide information and materials that explain the service option to the members. The OHCA provides information and material on Self-Direction to Case Managers for distribution to members.

(3) The member may request to Self-Direct their services from their Case Manager or call the My Life, My Choice Program toll-free number to request the Self-Directed Services option.
Description of services

Services included in the My Life, My Choice Program are as follows:

(1) **Case Management.**

(A) Case Management services are services that assist a member in gaining access to medical, social, educational or other services, regardless of payment source of services, that may benefit the member in maintaining health and safety. Case managers initiate and oversee necessary assessments and reassessments to establish or reestablish Waiver program eligibility. Case managers develop the member's comprehensive plan of care, listing only services which are necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member, as determined through assessments. Case managers initiate the addition of necessary services or deletion of unnecessary services, as dictated by the member's condition and available support. Case managers monitor the member's condition to ensure delivery and appropriateness of services and initiate plan of care reviews. If a member requires hospital or nursing facility services, the case manager assists the member in accessing institutional care and, as appropriate, periodically monitors the member's progress during the institutional stay and helps the member transition from institution to home by updating the service plan and preparing services to start on the date the member is discharged from the institution. Case Managers must meet My Life, My Choice Waiver Program minimum requirements for qualification and training prior to providing services to members. Prior to providing services to members choosing to Self-Direct their services, Case Managers are required to receive training and demonstrate knowledge regarding the Self-Directed Service delivery model.

(B) Providers may only claim time for billable Case Management activities described as follows:

(i) A billable case management activity is any task or function defined under OAC 317:50-3-14(1)(A) that only a My Life, My Choice case manager because of skill, training or authority, can perform on behalf of a member;

(ii) Ancillary activities such as clerical tasks like mailing, copying, filing, faxing, drive time or supervisory/administrative activities are not billable case management activities, although the administrative cost of these activities and other normal and customary business overhead costs have been included in the reimbursement rate for billable activities.

(C) Case Management services are prior authorized and billed
per 15-minute unit of service using the rate associated with the location of residence of the member served.

(1) Standard Rate: Case Management services are billed using a Standard rate for reimbursement for billable service activities provided to a member who resides in a county with population density greater than 25 persons per square mile.

(ii) Very Rural/Difficult Service Area Rate: Case Management services are billed using a Very Rural/Difficult Service Area rate for billable service activities provided to a member who resides in a county with population density equal to or less than 25 persons per square mile. An exception would be services to members that reside in OHCA identified zip codes in Osage County adjacent to metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Washington Counties. Services to these members are prior authorized and billed using the Standard rate.

(iii) The latest United States Census, Oklahoma Counties population data is the source for determination of whether a member resides in a county with a population density equal to or less than 25 persons per square mile, or resides in a county with a population density greater than 25 persons per square mile.

(2) **Respite.**

(A) Respite services are provided to members who are unable to care for themselves. They are provided on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of the primary caregiver. Payment for respite care does not include room and board costs unless more than seven hours are provided in a nursing facility. Respite care will only be utilized when other sources of care and support have been exhausted. Respite care will only be listed on the plan of care when it is necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member. Units of services are limited to the number of units approved on the plan of care.

(B) In-Home Respite services are billed per 15-minute unit service. Within any one-day period, a minimum of eight units must be provided with a maximum of 28 units provided. The service is provided in the member's home.

(C) Facility-Based Extended Respite is filed for a per diem rate, if provided in Nursing Facility. Extended Respite must be at least eight hours in duration.

(D) In-Home Extended Respite is filed for a per diem rate. A minimum of eight hours must be provided in the member's home.

(3) **Environmental Modifications.**

(A) Environmental Modifications are physical adaptations to
the home, required by the member's plan of care, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and without which, the member would require institutionalization. Adaptations or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the Waiver member are excluded.

(B) All services require prior authorization.

(4) **Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies.**

(A) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies are devices, controls, or appliances specified in the plan of care, which enable members to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living, or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live. Also included are items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies and equipment necessary to the proper functioning of such items, and durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid state plan. This service excludes any equipment and/or supply items which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the Waiver member. This service is necessary to prevent institutionalization.

(B) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies are billed using the appropriate HCPC procedure code. Reoccurring supplies which are shipped to the member are compensable only when the member remains eligible for Waiver services, continues to reside in the home and is not institutionalized in a hospital or nursing home. It is the provider's responsibility to verify the member's status prior to shipping these items. Payment for medical supplies is limited to the Medicare rate, or the SoonerCare rate, or actual acquisition cost plus 30 percent.

(5) **Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance.**

(A) Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance services are maintenance services to assist a member who has a chronic, yet stable, condition. These services assist with activities of daily living which require devices and procedures related to altered body functions. This service is for maintenance only and is not utilized as a treatment service.

(B) Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance service is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of this service a member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the plan of care.

(6) **Nursing.**

(A) Nursing services are services listed in the plan of care which are within the scope of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice
Act and are provided by a registered professional nurse, or licensed practical or vocational nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed to practice in the State. Nursing services include skilled nursing and/or private duty nursing. Skilled nursing is provided on an intermittent or part-time basis. Private duty nursing is individual and continuous care provided to a participant at home by licensed nurses. The provision of the nursing service will work to prevent or postpone the institutionalization of the member.

(B) Nursing services are services of a maintenance or preventive nature provided to members with stable, chronic conditions. These services are not intended to treat an acute health condition and may not include services which would be reimbursable under either Medicaid or Medicare's Home Health Program. This service primarily provides nurse supervision to the Personal Care Assistant or to the Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance Aide and assesses the member's health and prescribed medical services to ensure that they meet the member's needs as specified in the plan of care. A skilled nursing assessment/evaluation on-site visit is made to each member for whom Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance services are authorized to evaluate the condition of the member and medical appropriateness of services. An assessment/evaluation visit report will be made to the My Life, My Choice Waiver case manager in accordance with review schedule determined in consultation between the Case Manager and the Skilled Nurse, to report the member's condition or other significant information concerning each advanced supportive/restorative care member.

(i) The case manager may recommend authorization of Skilled Nursing services as part of the interdisciplinary team planning for the member's service plan and/or assessment/evaluation of:

(I) the member's general health, functional ability and needs and/or
(II) the adequacy of personal care and/or advanced supportive/restorative assistance services to meet the member's needs including providing on-the-job training and competency testing for personal care or advanced supportive/restorative care aides in accordance with rules and regulations for delegation of nursing tasks as established by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

(ii) In addition to assessment/evaluation, the case manager may recommend authorization of Skilled Nursing services for the following:
(I) preparing a one-week supply of insulin syringes for a blind diabetic, who can safely self-inject the medication but cannot fill his/her own syringe. This service would include monitoring the member's continued ability to self-administer the insulin;

(II) preparing oral medications in divided daily compartments for a member who self-administers prescribed medications but needs assistance and monitoring due to a minimal level of disorientation or confusion;

(III) monitoring a member's skin condition when a member is at risk for skin breakdown due to immobility or incontinence, or the member has a chronic stage II decubitus ulcer requiring maintenance care and monitoring;

(IV) providing nail care for the diabetic member or member with circulatory or neurological compromise;

(V) providing consultation and education to the member, member's family and/or other informal caregivers identified in the service plan, regarding the nature of the member's chronic condition. Provide skills training (including return skills demonstration to establish competency) to the member, family and/or other informal caregivers as specified in the service plan for preventive and rehabilitative care procedures.

(C) Nursing service can be billed for service plan development and/or assessment/evaluation services or, for other services within the scope of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act including private duty nursing. Nursing services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. A specific procedure code is used to bill for assessment/evaluation/service plan development skilled nursing services and other procedure codes are used to bill for all other authorized nursing services. A maximum of eight units per day of skilled nursing for assessment/evaluation and/or service plan development are allowed. An agreement by a provider to perform a nurse evaluation is also an agreement, to provide the nurse assessment identified in the Medicaid in-home care services for which the provider is certified and contracted. Reimbursement for a nurse evaluation is denied if the provider that produced the nurse evaluation fails to provide the nurse assessment identified in the Medicaid in-home care services for which the provider is certified and contracted.

(7) Home Delivered Meals.

(A) Home Delivered Meals provide one meal per day. A home
delivered meal is a meal prepared in advance and brought to the member's home. Each meal must have a nutritional content equal to at least one third of the Recommended Daily Allowance as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Meals are only provided to members who are unable to prepare meals and lack an informal provider to do meal preparation.

(B) Home Delivered Meals are billed per meal, with one meal equaling one unit of service. The limit of the number of units a member is allowed to receive is limited on the member's plan of care. The provider must obtain a signature from the member or the member's representative at the time the meals are delivered. In the event that the member is temporarily unavailable (i.e., doctor's appointment, etc.) and the meal is left, the provider must document the reason a signature is not obtained. The signature logs must be available for review.

(8) **Occupational Therapy services.**

(A) Occupational Therapy services are those services that increase functional independence by enhancing the development of adaptive skills and performance capacities of members with physical disabilities and related psychological and cognitive impairments. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Treatment involves the therapeutic use of self-care, work and play activities and may include modification of the tasks or environment to enable the member to achieve maximum independence, prevent further disability, and maintain health. Under a physician's order, a licensed occupational therapist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional occupational therapy assistant services, within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed occupational therapist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Occupational Therapy services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.
(9) **Physical Therapy services.**

(A) Physical Therapy services are those services that prevent physical disability through the evaluation and rehabilitation of members disabled by pain, disease or injury. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Treatment involves use of physical therapeutic means such as massage, manipulation, therapeutic exercise, cold or heat therapy, hydrotherapy, electrical stimulation and light therapy. Under a physician's order, a licensed physical therapist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate, written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional physical therapy assistant services, within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed physical therapist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Physical Therapy services are billed per 15-minute units of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.

(10) **Speech and Language Therapy services.**

(A) Speech/Language Therapy services are those that prevent speech and language communication disability through the evaluation and rehabilitation of members disabled by pain, disease or injury. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Services involve use of therapeutic means such as evaluation, specialized treatment, and/or development and oversight of a therapeutic maintenance program. Under a physician's order, a licensed Speech/Language Pathologist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate, written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional therapy assistant services within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed Speech/Language Pathologist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The Pathologist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager.
manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Speech/Language Therapy services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.

(11) **Respiratory Therapy services.**

(A) Respiratory therapy services are provided for a member who, but for the availability of in-home respiratory services, would require respiratory care as an inpatient in a hospital or nursing facility. Services are provided in the member's home under the care of a physician who is familiar with the technical and medical components of home ventilator support and the physician must determine medically that in-home respiratory care is safe and feasible for the member. Treatment involves use of therapeutic means such as: evaluation, respiratory treatments, chest physiotherapy, and/or development and oversight of a therapeutic maintenance program. Under a physician's order, a registered respiratory therapist evaluates the member and develops an appropriate, written therapeutic regimen. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Respiratory Therapy services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.

(12) **Hospice services.**

(A) Hospice is palliative and/or comfort care provided to the member and his/her family when a physician certifies that the member has a terminal illness and has six months or less to live and orders Hospice Care. A hospice program offers palliative and supportive care to meet the special needs arising out of the physical, emotional and spiritual stresses which are experienced during the final stages of illness and during dying and bereavement. The member signs a statement choosing hospice care instead of routine medical care that has the objective to treat and cure the member's illness. Once the member has elected hospice care, the hospice medical team assumes responsibility for the member's medical care for the terminal illness in the home environment. Hospice care services include nursing care, physician services, medical
equipment and supplies, drugs for symptom control and pain relief, home health aide and personal care services, physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, medical social services, dietary counseling and grief and bereavement counseling to the member and/or family. A Hospice plan of care must be developed by the hospice team in conjunction with the member's case manager before hospice services are provided. The hospice services must be related to the palliation or management of the member's terminal illness, symptom control, or to enable the individual to maintain activities of daily living and basic functional skills. Hospice may be provided to the member in a Nursing Facility (NF) only when the member is placed in the NF for My Life, My Choice Facility Based Extended Respite. Hospice provided as part of Facility Based Extended respite may not be reimbursed for more than five days during any 30 day period. A member that is eligible for Medicare Hospice provided as a Medicare Part A benefit, is not eligible to receive My Life, My Choice Hospice services.

(B) Hospice services are billed per diem of service for days covered by a Hospice plan of care and during which the Hospice provider is responsible for providing Hospice services as needed by the member or member's family.

(13) **My Life, My Choice Waiver Personal Care.**

(A) My Life, My Choice Personal Care is assistance to a member in carrying out activities of daily living such as bathing, grooming and toileting, or in carrying out instrumental activities of daily living, such as preparing meals and doing laundry, to assure personal health and safety of the individual or to prevent or minimize physical health regression or deterioration. Personal Care services do not include service provision of a technical nature, i.e. tracheal suctioning, bladder catheterization, colostomy irrigation, and operation/maintenance of equipment of a technical nature.

(B) My Life, My Choice Home Care Agency Skilled Nursing staff working in coordination with a Case Manager are responsible for development and monitoring of the member's Personal Care plan.

(C) My Life, My Choice Personal Care services are prior authorized and billed per 15-minute unit of service with units of service limited to the number of units on the approved plan of care.

(14) **Adult Day Health.** Adult Day Health services are scheduled for one or more days per week, in a community setting, encompassing both health and social services needed in order to
provide optimal functioning of the member. Transportation between the member's place of residence and the adult day facility is provided and is included in the rate paid to providers of adult day health services.

(15) **Assistive Technology.** Assistive technology enables the member to maintain or increase functional capabilities. Assistive technology devices are in addition to equipment and supplies readily available through traditional State Plan services and exclude items that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the member. Assistive technology includes the purchase, rental, customization, maintenance and repair of such devices.

(16) **Audiology Treatment and Evaluation.** Services include evaluation, treatment and consultation related to auditory functioning and are intended to maximize the member's hearing abilities.

(17) **Agency Companion.** Agency companion services provide a living arrangement developed to meet the specific needs of the member that include a live-in companion providing supervision, supportive assistance, and training in daily living skills provided in a shared home owned or rented by the member, companion, or in a mutually rented or owned home;

(18) **Dental services.** Dental services include maintenance or improvement of dental health as well as relief of pain and infection. Coverage of dental services may not exceed $1,000 per plan year of care. These services may include:

- (A) oral examination;
- (B) bite-wing x-rays;
- (C) prophylaxis;
- (D) topical fluoride treatment;
- (E) development of a sequenced treatment plan that prioritizes:
  - (i) elimination of pain;
  - (ii) adequate oral hygiene; and
  - (iii) restoration or improved ability to chew;
- (F) routine training of member or primary caregiver regarding oral hygiene; and
- (G) preventive restorative, replacement and repair services to achieve or restore functionality are provided after appropriate review if applicable.

(19) **Family Training.** Family training services are for families of the member being served through the waiver. For purposes of this service, "family" is defined as the persons who live with or provide care to a waiver member and may include a parent, spouse, children relatives, foster family or in-laws. Training
includes instruction for the family member in skills and knowledge pertaining to the support and assistance of the waiver member. This training is specific to an individual member's needs. It is intended to allow the member's family to become more proficient in meeting the needs of the member. Specific family training services are included in the member's service plan.

(20) **Family Counseling.** Family counseling helps to develop and maintain healthy, stable relationships among all family members in order to support meeting the needs of the member. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of coping skills by building upon family strengths. Knowledge and skills gained through family counseling services increase the likelihood that the member remains in or returns to his or her own home. Services are intended to maximize the member/family's emotional/social adjustment and well-being. All family counseling needs are documented in the member's plan of care. Individual counseling cannot exceed 400, 15-minute units per plan of care year. Group counseling cannot exceed 225, 30-minute units per plan of care year. Case Managers assist the member to identify other alternatives to meet identified needs above the limit.

(21) **Nutritional Education services.** Nutritional Education services focus on assisting the member and/or primary caregiver with the dietary aspects of the member's disease management. These services include dietary evaluation and consultation with individuals or their care provider. Services are provided in the member's home or when appropriate in a class situation. Services are intended to maximize the individual's nutritional health. Services must be expressly for diagnosing, treating or preventing, or minimizing the effects of illness.

(22) **Vision services.** Vision services must be listed in the member's plan of care and include a routine eye examination for the purpose of prescribing glasses or visual aids, determination of refractive state, treatment of refractive errors or purchase of glasses to include lenses and frames; exceptions are made on the individual basis as deemed medically necessary. Amount, frequency and duration of services is prior authorized in accordance with the member's service plan, with a limit of one pair of glasses to include lenses and frames annually.

(23) **Independent Living Skills training.** Independent living skills training is a service to support the individual's self care, daily living, adaptive skills and leisure skills needed to reside successfully in the community. Services are provided in community based settings in a manner that contributes to the individual's independence, self sufficiency, community inclusion.
and well being. This service is intended to train members with significant cognitive problems living skills such as selecting clothing, dressing, and personal shopping.

(24) **Personal Emergency Response System.**

(A) Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device which enables certain individuals at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency. The individual may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the person's phone and programmed to signal, in accordance with member preference, a friend, a relative or a response center once a "help" button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals. For a My Life, My Choice Program member to be eligible to receive PERS service, the member must meet all of the following service criteria:

(i) a recent history of falls as a result of an existing medical condition that prevents the individual from getting up from a fall unassisted;
(ii) lives alone and has no regular caregiver, paid or unpaid, and therefore is left alone for long periods of time;
(iii) demonstrates capability to comprehend the purpose of and activate the PERS;
(iv) has a health and safety plan detailing the interventions beyond the PERS to assure the member's health and safety in his/her home;
(v) has a disease management plan to implement medical and health interventions that reduce the possibility of falls by managing the member's underlying medical condition causing the falls; and,
(vi) the service avoids premature or unnecessary institutionalization of the member.

(B) PERS services are billed using the appropriate HCPCS procedure code for installation, monthly service or purchase of PERS. All services are prior authorized in accordance with the My Life, My Choice approved plan of care.

(25) **Prescription drugs.** Members are eligible for a maximum of six prescriptions per month with a limit of three brand name prescriptions. Seven additional generic prescriptions per month are allowed if medically necessary. Medically necessary prescriptions beyond the three brand name or thirteen total prescriptions will be covered with prior authorization. More information on prescription drugs is provided at 317:30-5-72.

(26) **Psychiatry.** Psychiatry provides outpatient psychiatric services provided by a licensed psychiatrist and will be
comprised of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness. These services will also include review, assessment and monitoring of psychiatric conditions, evaluation of the current plan of treatment and recommendations for a continued and/or revised plan of treatment and/or therapy, including required documentation. Psychiatrists may provide instruction and training to individuals, family members, case management staff and/or provider staff in recognition of psychiatric illness and adverse reactions to medications.

(27) **Psychological services.** Psychological services include evaluation, psychotherapy, consultation and behavioral treatment. Services are provided in any community setting as specified in the member's service plan. Services are intended to maximize the member's psychological and behavioral well-being. Services are provided in both individual and group (8 person maximum) formats. The OHCA Care Management Team will review service plans to ensure that duplication of services does not occur.

(28) **Pharmacological Evaluations.** Pharmacological evaluations are provided to waiver members to ensure proper management of medications. The evaluations consist of:

(A) An initial medication assessment performed in conjunction with the case manager and member.

(B) A written report after completion of both the initial visit and medication assessment to be provided to the case manager and prescribing physician(s). The report will contain the initial medication assessment and recommendations when appropriate.

(C) Follow-up visit, assessments and reports will be arranged with the case manager every four months after the initial visits, assessment and report for the first year the member is in the community. This will result in a total of three follow-up visits, assessments and reports per member.

(29) **Non-emergency Transportation.** Non-emergency, non-ambulance transportation services are available through the SoonerRide Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) program. SoonerRide NET is available on a statewide basis to all eligible members. SoonerRide NET includes non-emergency, non-ambulance transportation for members to and from SoonerCare providers of health care services. The NET must be for the purpose of accessing medically necessary covered services for which a member has available benefits. Additionally, SoonerRide NET may also be provided for eligible members to providers other than SoonerCare providers if the transportation is to access medically necessary services covered by SoonerCare. More
Self-Direction.

(A) Self-Direction is a method of service delivery that allows waiver members to determine supports and services they need to live successfully in a home or community based setting. A member choosing Self-Direction is the employer of record for his/her Personal Care and Advanced Supportive/Restorative Care service providers and must have an approved plan of care prior to initiation of any Self-Directed activities.

(B) The OHCA uses the following criteria to determine a member's service eligibility to participate in the Self-Directed Services program:

(i) residence in the Self-Directed services approved area;

(ii) member's health and safety with Self-Directed services can reasonably be assured based on a review of service history records and a review of member capacity and readiness to assume employer responsibilities under Self-Direction with any one of the following findings as basis to deny a request for Self-Direction due to Inability to assure member health and safety;

(I) the member does not have the ability to make decisions about his/her care or service planning and the member's "authorized representative" is not willing to assume Self-Directed services responsibilities, or

(II) the member is not willing to assume responsibility, or to enlist an "authorized representative" to assume responsibility, in one or more areas of Self-Direction such as in service planning, or in assuming the role of employer of the Personal Services Assistant (PSA) or Advanced Personal Services Assistant (APSA) service provider, or in monitoring and managing health or in preparation for emergency backup, or

(III) the member has a recent history of self-neglect or self-abuse as evidenced by Adult Protective Services intervention within the past 12 months and does not have an "authorized representative" with capacity to assist with Self-Direction responsibilities;

(C) The member voluntarily makes an informed choice to Self-Direct services. As part of the informed choice, decision making process for Self-Direction, the OHCA staff or the Case Manager provides consultation and assistance as the member completes a self-assessment of preparedness to assume the role of employer for their Personal Services Assistant. The
orientation and enrollment process will provide the member with a basic understanding of what will be expected of them under Self-Direction, the supports available to assist them to successfully perform employer responsibilities and an overview of the potential risks involved.

(D) The OHCA uses the following criteria to determine that based upon documentation, a person is no longer allowed to participate in the Self-Directed Services option:

(i) the member does not have the ability to make decisions about his/her care or service planning and the member's "authorized representative" is not willing to assume Self-Direction responsibilities; or

(ii) the member is not willing to assume responsibility, or to enlist an "authorized representative" to assume responsibility, in one or more areas of Self-Direction such as in service planning, or in assuming the role of employer of the PSA or APSA service providers, or in monitoring and managing health or in preparation for emergency backup; or

(iii) the member has a recent history of self-neglect or self-abuse as evidenced by Adult Protective Services intervention and does not have an "authorized representative" with capacity to assist with Self-Direction responsibilities; or

(iv) the member abuses or exploits their employee; or

(v) the member falsifies time-sheets or other work records; or

(vi) the member, even with Case Manager and Financial Management Services assistance, is unable to operate successfully within their Individual Budget Allocation; or

(vii) inferior quality of services provided by member/employer's employee, or the inability of the member/employer's employee to provide the number of service units the member requires, jeopardizes the member's health and/or safety.

(E) The member may designate a family member or friend as an "authorized representative" to assist in the service planning process and in executing member employer responsibilities. If the member chooses to designate an "authorized representative", the designation and agreement identifying the "willing adult" to assume this role and responsibility is documented with dated signatures of the member, the designee and the member's Case Manager or the OHCA staff.

(i) A person having guardianship or power of attorney or other court sanctioned authorization to make decisions on behalf of the member has legal standing to be the member's
designated "authorized representative".
(ii) An individual hired to provide Personal Services Assistance to a member may not be designated the "authorized representative" for the member.

(F) Self-Directed Services are delivered as authorized on the service plan and are limited to Personal Care, Advanced Supportive/Restorative Care and Respite. The member employs the Personal Services Assistant (PSA) and/or the Advanced Personal Services Assistant (APSA) and is responsible, with assistance from the Administrative Financial Management Services (FMS), for ensuring that the employment complies with State and Federal Labor Law requirements. The member:
(i) recruits, hires and, as necessary, discharges the PSA and APSA;
(ii) provides instruction and training to the PSA or APSA on tasks to be done and works with the Case Manager to obtain skilled nursing services assistance with training when necessary. Prior to performing an Advanced Personal Services Assistance task for the first time, the APSA must demonstrate competency in the tasks in an on-the-job training session conducted by the member and the member must document the attendant's competency in performing each task in the APSA’s personnel file;
(iii) determines where and how the PSA or APSA works, hours of work, what is to be accomplished and, within Individual Budget Allocation limits, wages to be paid for the work;
(iv) supervises and documents employee work time; and,
(v) provides tools and materials for work to be accomplished.

(G) Financial Management Services are program administrative services provided to participating Self-Directed Service employer/members by agencies contracted with the OHCA. Financial Management Services are employer related assistance that provides Internal Revenue Service (IRS) fiscal reporting agent and other financial management tasks and functions including, but not limited to:
(i) employer payroll, at a minimum of semi monthly, and associated withholding for taxes, or for other payroll withholdings performed on behalf of the member as employer of the PSA or APSA;
(ii) other employer related payment disbursements as agreed to with the member and in accordance with the member's Individual Budget Allocation;
(iii) responsibility for obtaining criminal and abuse registry background checks, on behalf of the member, on
prospective hires for PSAs or APSAs;
(iv) providing to the member, as needed, assistance with employer related cognitive tasks, decision-making and specialized skills that may include assistance with Individual Budget Allocation planning and support for making decisions including training and providing reference material and consultation regarding employee management tasks such as recruiting, hiring, training and supervising the member's Personal Services Assistant or Advanced Personal Services Assistant; and
(H) The service of Personal Services Assistance is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of PSA a member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the Service Plan.
(I) The service of Advanced Personal Services Assistance is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of APSA a member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the Service Plan.
(J) Self-Directed Services rates are determined using the Individual Budget Allocation (IBA) Expenditure Accounts Determination process for each member. The IBA Expenditure Accounts Determination process includes consideration and decisions about the following:
(i) The Individual Budget Allocation (IBA) Expenditure Accounts Determination constrains total SoonerCare reimbursement for Self-Directed services to be less than expenditures for equivalent services using agency providers.
(ii) The PSA and APSA service unit rates are calculated by the OHCA during the Self-Directed service eligibility determination process. The OHCA sets the PSA and APSA unit rates at a level that is not less than 80 percent and not more than 95 percent of the comparable Agency Personal Care (for PSA) or Advanced Supportive/Restorative (for APSA) service rate. The allocation of portions of the PSA and/or APSA rate to cover salary, mandatory taxes, and optional benefits (including Worker's Compensation insurance, if available) is determined individually for each member using the Self-Directed Services Individualized Budget Allocation Expenditure Accounts Determination Process.
(iii) The IBA Expenditure Accounts Determination process defines the level of program financial resources required to meet the member's need for Self-Directed services. If the member's need for services changes due to a change in health/disability status and/or a change in the level of
support available from other sources, the Case Manager, based upon an updated assessment, amends the service plan to increase Self-Directed service units appropriate to meet additional member need. The OHCA, upon favorable review, authorizes the amended plan and updates the member's IBA. Service amendments based on changes in member need for services do not change an existing PSA or APSA rate. The member, with assistance from the FMS, reviews and revises the IBA Expenditure Accounts calculation annually or more often to the extent appropriate and necessary.
317:50-3-15. Reimbursement

Rate methodologies for Waiver services are set in accordance with the rate setting process by the State Plan Amendment Rate Committee (SPARC) and approved by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board. Rates for Waiver services are set by one of the methodologies below:

(1) A fixed and uniform SoonerCare Rate. When a Waiver service is similar or the same as a Medicaid State Plan service for which a fee schedule has been established, the current SoonerCare rate is utilized.

(2) The current Medicare rate. When the waiver service mirrors an existing Medicare service the current Medicare rate is utilized.

(3) Individual rates. Certain services because of their variables do not lend themselves to a fixed and uniform rate. Payment for these services is made on an individual basis following a uniform process approved by the OHCA.
317:50-3-16. Billing procedures for My Life, My Choice Waiver services

(a) Billing procedures for long-term care medical services are contained in the OKMMIS Billing and Procedure Manual. Questions regarding billing procedures which cannot be resolved through a study of the manual should be referred to the OHCA.

(b) The approved My Life, My Choice Waiver service plan is the basis for the MMIS service prior authorization, specifying:

1. service;
2. service provider;
3. units authorized; and
4. begin and end dates of service authorization.

(c) As part of My Life, My Choice Waiver quality assurance, provider audits are used to evaluate whether paid claims are consistent with service plan authorizations and documentation of service provision. Evidence of paid claims that are not supported by service plan authorization and/or documentation of service provision will be turned over to the OHCA Provider Audit Unit for follow-up investigation.

(d) Service time of Personal Care, Case Management, Nursing, Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance, In-Home Respite and Self Direction may be documented through the Interactive Voice Response Authentication (IVRA) system when provided in the home. The IVRA system provides alternate backup solutions should the automated system be unavailable. In the event of IVRA backup system failure, the provider will document time in accordance with their agency backup plan. The agency's backup procedures are only permitted when the IVRA system is unavailable.
317:50-5-1. Purpose

The Sooner Seniors Program is a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver used to finance non-institutional long-term care services through Oklahoma's SoonerCare program for a targeted group of elderly individuals. To be considered for Sooner Seniors Waiver Program services, individuals must meet all criteria set forth under 317:50-5-3.
317:50-5-2. Definitions

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

"ADL" means the activities of daily living. Activities of daily living are activities that reflect the member's ability to perform self-care tasks essential for sustaining health and safety such as:

(A) bathing,
(B) eating,
(C) dressing,
(D) grooming,
(E) transferring (includes getting in and out of a tub, bed to chair, etc.),
(F) mobility,
(G) toileting, and
(H) bowel/bladder control.

"ADLs score in high risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT ADL score is 10 or more which indicates the member needs some help with 5 ADLs or that the member cannot do 3 ADLs at all plus the member needs some help with 1 other ADL.

"ADLs score at the high end of the moderate risk range" means member's total weighted UCAT ADL score is 8 or 9 which indicates the member needs help with 4 ADLs or the member cannot do 3 ADLs at all.

"Cognitive Impairment" means that the person, as determined by the clinical judgment of the LTC Nurse does not have the capability to think, reason, remember or learn required for self-care, communicating needs, directing care givers and/or using appropriate judgment for maintenance of their own health or safety. The clinical judgment of cognitive impairment is based on MSQ performance in combination with a more general evaluation of cognitive function from interaction with the person during the UCAT assessment.

"Environment high risk" means member's UCAT Environment score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the physical environment is strongly negative or hazardous.

"Environment moderate risk" means member's UCAT Environment score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, many aspects of the physical environment are substandard or hazardous.

"Health Assessment high risk" means member's UCAT health assessment score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic health conditions, whose symptoms are rapidly deteriorating.
uncontrolled, or not well controlled and requiring a high frequency or intensity of medical care/oversight to bring under control and whose functional capacity is so limited as to require full time assistance or care performed daily, by, or under the supervision of professional personnel and has multiple unmet needs for services available only through the Sooner Seniors program or a Nursing Facility (NF) and requires NF placement immediately if these needs cannot be met by other means.

"Health Assessment low risk" means member's health assessment score is 5 which indicates, in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic, stable, health conditions, whose symptoms are controlled or nearly controlled, which benefit from available, or usually available, medical treatment or corrective measures, and may have an unmet need for a service available only through the Sooner Seniors program or a Nursing Facility (NF) but is not likely to enter a NF if these needs are not met.

"Health Assessment moderate risk" means member's UCAT Health Assessment score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, the member has one or more chronic changing health conditions, whose symptoms are fragile or worsening and require medical care/oversight, to bring under control or to maintain in a stable, controlled state and has multiple unmet needs for services available only through the Sooner Seniors program or a Nursing Facility (NF) and is likely to enter a NF if these needs are not met.

"IADL" means the instrumental activities of daily living.

"IADLs score in high risk range" means member's total weighted UCAT IADL score is 12 or more which indicates the member needs some help with 6 IADLs or cannot do 4 IADLs at all.

"Instrumental activities of daily living" means those activities that reflect the member's ability to perform household chores and tasks within the community essential for sustaining health and safety such as:

(A) shopping,
(B) cooking,
(C) cleaning,
(D) managing money,
(E) using a telephone,
(F) doing laundry,
(G) taking medication, and
(H) accessing transportation.

"Member Support high risk" means member's UCAT Member Support score is 25 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical
judgment, excluding from consideration existing Ryan White CARE Act, Indian Health Service, Medicaid NF, Sooner Seniors and/or State Plan Personal Care services, very little or no support is available from informal and formal sources and the member requires additional care that is not available through Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other Federal entitlement programs.

"Member Support moderate risk" means member's UCAT Member Support score is 15 which indicates in the UCAT assessor's clinical judgment, excluding from consideration existing Ryan White CARE Act, Indian Health Service, Medicaid NF, Sooner Seniors and/or State Plan Personal Care services, support from informal and formal sources is available, but overall, it is inadequate, changing, fragile or otherwise problematic and the member requires additional care that is not available through Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other federal entitlement programs.

"Mental Retardation" means that the person has, as determined by a PASRR level II evaluation, substantial limitations in functional ability due to significantly sub-average intellectual functioning related to an event occurring before the age of 18.

"MSQ" means the mental status questionnaire.

"MSQ score in high risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT MSQ score is 12 or more which indicates a severe orientation-memory-concentration impairment, or a severe memory impairment.

"MSQ score at the high end of the moderate risk range" means the member's total weighted UCAT MSQ score is (10) or (11) which indicates an orientation-memory-concentration impairment, or a significant memory impairment.

"Nutrition high risk" means a total weighted UCAT Nutrition score is 12 or more which indicates the member has significant eating difficulties combined with poor appetite, weight loss, and/or special diet requirements.

"Progressive degenerative disease process that responds to treatment" means a process such as, but not limited to, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's Disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), that, untreated, systematically impairs normal body function which leads to acute illness and/or disability but that reacts positively to a medically prescribed treatment intervention (usually medication) which arrests or significantly delays the destructive action of the process.

"Social Resources high risk" means a total weighted UCAT Social Resources score is 15 or more, which indicates the member lives alone, combined with none or very few social contacts and no
supports in times of need.
317:50-5-3. Sooner Seniors program overview

(a) The Sooner Seniors program is a Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver used to finance noninstitutional long-term care services for a targeted group of elderly adults. Sooner Seniors services are outside the scope of state plan Medicaid services. The Waiver allows the OHCA to offer certain Home and Community Based services to an annually capped number of persons who are categorically needy (refer to OKDHS Appendix C-1, Schedule VIII. B. 1.) and without such services would be institutionalized.

(1) To be considered for Sooner Seniors services, individuals must meet the following criteria:

(A) be age 65 years or older;
(B) have a clinically documented, progressive degenerative disease process that responds to treatment and requires Sooner Seniors Waiver services to maintain the treatment regimen to prevent health deterioration and remain in a home and community based setting;
(C) have transitioned to a home and community based setting through the Living Choice Program;

(2) In addition, the individual must meet the following minimum UCAT criteria:

(A) The UCAT documents need for assistance to sustain health and safety as demonstrated by:

(i) either the ADLs or MSQ score is in the high risk range; or
(ii) any combination of two or more of the following:

(I) ADLs score is at the high end of moderate risk range; or
(II) MSQ score is at the high end of moderate risk range; or
(III) IADLs score is in the high risk range; or
(IV) Nutrition score is in the high risk range; or
(V) Health Assessment is in the moderate risk range, and, in addition;

(B) The UCAT documents absence of support or adequate environment to meet the needs to sustain health and safety as demonstrated by:

(i) Individual Support is moderate risk; or
(ii) Environment is high risk; or
(iii) Environment is moderate risk and Social Resources is in the high risk range; or, regardless of whether criteria
under (A) of need and (B) of absence of support are met; (C) The UCAT documents that:
(i) the individual has a clinically documented progressive degenerative disease process that will produce health deterioration to an extent that the person will meet OAC 317:50-5-3(a)(2)(A) criteria if untreated; and (ii) the individual previously has required hospital or NF level of care services for treatment related to the condition; and (iii) a medically prescribed treatment regimen exists that will significantly arrest or delay the disease process; and (iv) only by means of Sooner Seniors Program eligibility will the individual have access to the required treatment regimen to arrest or delay the disease process.

(3) **NF Level of Care Services.** To be eligible for NF level of care services, meeting the minimum UCAT criteria demonstrates the individual must:
(A) require a treatment plan involving the planning and administration of services that require the skills of licensed or otherwise certified technical or professional personnel, and are provided directly or under the supervision of such personnel; 
(B) have a physical impairment or combination of physical, mental and/or functional impairments; 
(C) require professional nursing supervision (medication, hygiene and/or dietary assistance); 
(D) lack the ability to adequately and appropriately care for self or communicate needs to others; 
(E) require medical care and treatment in order to minimize physical health regression or deterioration; 
(F) require care that is not available through family and friends, Medicare, Veterans Administration, or other federal entitlement program with the exception of Indian Health Services; and 
(G) require care that cannot be met through Medicaid State Plan Services, including Personal Care, if financially eligible.

(4) Meet service eligibility criteria [see OAC 317:50-5-3(c)].
(5) Meet program eligibility criteria [see OAC 317:50-5-3(d)].

(b) Services provided through the Sooner Seniors Waiver are:
(1) case management;
(2) respite;
(3) adult day health care;
(4) environmental modifications;
(5) specialized medical equipment and supplies;
(6) physical therapy;
(7) occupational therapy;
(8) respiratory therapy;
(9) speech therapy;
(10) dental services and treatment up to $1,000 annually
(11) family training services
(12) nutritional education services
(13) vision services;
(14) pharmacological evaluations;
(15) agency companion;
(16) advanced supportive/restorative assistance;
(17) skilled nursing and private duty nursing;
(18) home delivered meals;
(19) hospice care;
(20) medically necessary prescription drugs within the limits of the waiver;
(21) personal care (state plan), Sooner Seniors personal care;
(22) Personal Emergency Response System (PERS);
(23) Self-directed services;
(24) All other SoonerCare medical services within the scope of the State Plan, including SoonerRide non-emergency transportation.

(c) A service eligibility determination is made using the following criteria:

(1) an open Sooner Seniors Waiver Program waiver slot, as authorized by the waiver document approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is available to assure federal participation in payment for services to the member. If it is determined that all Sooner Seniors Waiver slots are filled, the individual cannot be certified as eligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver services and the individual's name is placed on a waiting list for entry as an open slot becomes available. Sooner Seniors Waiver slots and corresponding waiting lists, if necessary, are maintained.
(2) the individual is in the Sooner Seniors Waiver targeted service group. The target group is an individual who is age 65
or older with a chronic medical condition.

(3) the individual does not pose a physical threat to self or others as supported by professional documentation.

(4) members of the household or persons who routinely visit the household, as supported by professional documentation, do not pose a threat of harm or injury to the individual or other household visitors.

(d) The Sooner Seniors Waiver program eligibility determination is made through the service plan approval process. The following criteria are used to make the determination that an individual is not eligible:

(1) if the individual's needs as identified by UCAT and other professional assessments cannot be met through Sooner Seniors Waiver program services, SoonerCare State Plan services and other formal or informal services. The State, as part of the waiver program approval authorization, assures CMS that each waiver member's health, safety, or welfare can be maintained in their home. If an individual's identified needs cannot be met through provision of Sooner Seniors Waiver program or SoonerCare State Plan services and other formal or informal services are not in place or immediately available to meet those needs, the individual's health, safety or welfare in their home cannot be assured.

(2) if the individual poses a physical threat to self or others as supported by professional documentation.

(3) if other members of the household or persons who routinely visit the household, as supported by professional documentation, pose a threat of harm or injury to the individual or other household visitors.

(4) if the individual's needs are being met, or do not require Sooner Seniors Waiver services to be met, or if the individual would not require institutionalization if needs are not met.

(5) if, after the service plan is developed, the risk to individual health and safety is not acceptable to the individual, or to the interdisciplinary service plan team, or to the OHCA.

(e) Professional documentation is provided to support the recommendation for redetermination of program eligibility. The service providers continue providing services according to the service plan as provider safety permits until the member is removed from the Sooner Seniors Waiver program. As a part of the
procedures requesting redetermination of program eligibility, the
OHCA will provide technical assistance to the Provider for
transitioning the member to other services.
(f) Individuals determined ineligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver
program services are notified in writing of the determination and
of their right to appeal the decision.
317:50-5-4. Application for Sooner Seniors Waiver services

(a) Within 60 days of completion of the Living Choice demonstration program, members choosing to stay in a home and community based setting may apply for transition into the Sooner Seniors Waiver. In order to transition from the Living Choice demonstration program to the Sooner Seniors Waiver, a recertification of eligibility is required. The member must meet all financial and medical eligibility requirements for recertification. The same application and eligibility processes used to certify members for SoonerCare long term care and Living Choice services will be reviewed to ensure any changes in member status will not affect eligibility for the Sooner Seniors Waiver. The original application and eligibility processes are set forth in 317:50-5-4(a)(1) through 317:50-5-6 below.

(1) The application process is initiated by the receipt of a UCAT, Part I or by an oral request for services. A written financial application is not required for an individual who is a SoonerCare member at the time of application. A financial application for Sooner Seniors Waiver services consists of the Medical Assistance Application form. The form is signed by the applicant, parent, spouse, guardian or someone else acting on the applicant's behalf.

(A) All conditions of financial eligibility must be verified and documented in the case record. When current information is already available that establishes financial eligibility, such information may be used by recording source and date of information. If the applicant also wishes to apply for a State Supplemental Payment, either the applicant or his/her guardian must sign the application form.

(B) An individual requesting waiver services, or the individual's community spouse may request an assessment of resources available to each spouse by using OKDHS form MA-11, Assessment of Assets, when SoonerCare application is not being made. The individual and/or spouse must provide documentation of resources. The assessment reflects all countable resources of the couple (owned individually or as a couple) and establishes the spousal share to be protected when subsequent determination of SoonerCare long-term care eligibility is made.

(C) When SoonerCare application is being made, an assessment of resources must be completed if it was not completed when the individual entered the NF or began receiving home and community based services. For applicants of the Sooner Seniors waiver, those resources owned by the couple the month the application was made determines the spousal share of resources. If the individual applied for SoonerCare at the
time of entry into the Living Choice Program, Form MA-11 is not appropriate. However, the spousal share must be determined using the resource information provided on the SoonerCare application form and computed using OKDHS form MA-12, Title XIX Worksheet.

(2) The date of application is the date the signed application is received or the date when the request for SoonerCare is made orally and the financial application form is signed later. The date of the oral request is noted above the date the form is signed.

(b) **Sooner Seniors Waiver waiting list procedures.** Sooner Seniors Waiver Program "available capacity in the month" is the number of additional members that may be enrolled in the Program in a given month without exceeding, on an annualized basis, the maximum number authorized by the waiver to be served in the waiver year.
317:50-5-5. Sooner Seniors Waiver program medical eligibility determination

A medical eligibility determination is made for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services based on the Uniform Comprehensive Assessment Tool (UCAT) III assessment, professional judgment and the determination that the member has unmet care needs that require Sooner Seniors Waiver Program, or NF level services to assure member health and safety. Sooner Seniors Waiver services are designed to be a continuation of support for the informal care that is being provided in the member's home. These services are not intended to take the place of regular care provided by family members and/or by significant others. When there is an informal (not paid) system of care available in the home, Sooner Seniors Waiver service provision will supplement the system within the limitations of Sooner Seniors Waiver Program policy.

(1) Categorical relationship must be established for determination of eligibility for Sooner Seniors Waiver services. If categorical relationship to disability has not already been established, the Level of Care Evaluation Unit (LOCEU) will render a decision on categorical relationship to the disabled using the same definition used by SSA. A follow-up is required with the Social Security Administration to be sure their disability decision agrees with the decision of LOCEU.

(2) Community agencies complete the UCAT, Part I and forward the form to the OHCA. If the UCAT, Part I indicates that the applicant does not qualify for SoonerCare long-term care services, the applicant is referred to appropriate community resources.

(3) If the UCAT indicates member qualification for SoonerCare services and the needs of the member require an immediate interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting with home health agency nurse participation to develop a care plan and service plan, the need is documented.

(4) If, based upon the information obtained during the assessment, the nurse determines that the member may be at risk for health and safety, OKDHS Adult Protective Services (APS) staff are notified immediately and the referral is documented on the UCAT.

(5) Within ten (10) working days of receipt of a complete Sooner Seniors Waiver application, medical eligibility is determined using level of care criteria and service eligibility criteria.

(6) Once eligibility has been established, notification is given to the member and the case management provider so that care plan and service plan development may begin. The member's case management provider is notified of the member's name, address, case number and social security number, the units of case
management and, if applicable, the number of units of home health agency nurse evaluation authorized for care plan and service plan development, whether the needs of the member require an immediate IDT meeting with home health agency nurse participation and the effective date for member entry into the Sooner Seniors Waiver Program.

(7) If the member has a current certification and requests a change to Sooner Seniors Waiver services, a new UCAT is required. The UCAT is also updated when a member requests a change from Sooner Seniors Waiver services to State Plan Personal Care services. If a member is receiving Sooner Seniors Waiver services and requests to go to a nursing facility, a new medical level of care decision is not needed.

(8) When a UCAT assessment has been completed more than 90 days prior to submission for determination of a medical decision, a new assessment is required.
317:50-5-6. Determining financial eligibility for the Sooner Seniors Waiver program

Financial eligibility for Sooner Seniors Waiver services is determined using the rules on income and resources according to the category to which the individual is related. Only individuals who are categorically related to ABD may be served through the Sooner Seniors Waiver. Income, resources and expenses are evaluated on a monthly basis for all individuals requesting payment for the Sooner Seniors Waiver Program. In determining income and resources for the individual categorically related to ABD, the "family" includes the individual and spouse, if any. However, consideration is not given to the income and resources of a spouse included in a TANF case. If an individual and spouse cease to live together for reasons other than institutionalization, income and resources are considered available to each other through the month in which they are separated. Mutual consideration ceases with the month after the month in which the separation occurs. Any amounts which are actually contributed to the spouse after the mutual consideration has ended are considered. Financial eligibility for individuals in Sooner Seniors Waiver Program services is as follows:

1. **Individual without a spouse.** For an individual without a spouse, the following rules are used to determine financial eligibility.

   (A) **Income eligibility.** To determine the income of the individual, the rules in (i) through (iii) of this subparagraph apply.

      (i) If payment of income is made to the individual and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to the individual's interest.

      (ii) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of the instrument.

      (iii) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver services. If the individual's gross income exceeds that standard, refer to SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

   (B) **Resource eligibility.** In order for an individual without a spouse to be eligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver services, his/her countable resources cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual listed in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.

   (C) **Equity in capital resources.** If the equity in the
individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources can not reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(2) Individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or over and in a mental health hospital. For an individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or over and in a mental health hospital, resources are determined for each individual as the amount owned by each individual plus one-half of the jointly owned resources of the couple. Once this separation of assets is made, a resource of either spouse is not considered available to the other during the receipt of HCBW program services.

(A) Income eligibility. Income is determined separately for an individual and his/her spouse if the spouse is in a HCBW program, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or older and in a mental health hospital. The income of either spouse is not considered as available to the other during the receipt of Sooner Seniors Waiver services. The rules in (i) - (v) of this subparagraph apply in this situation:

(i) If payment of income is made solely to one or the other, the income is considered available only to that individual.
(ii) If payment of income is made to both, one-half is considered for each individual.
(iii) If payment of income is made to either one or both and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to either spouse's interest (if payment is to that spouse) or one-half of the joint interest if no interest is specified.
(iv) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of the instrument.
(v) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver services. If the individual's gross income exceeds this standard, refer to
SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

(B) **Resource eligibility.** In order for an individual with a spouse who receives HCBW services, or is institutionalized in a NF or ICF/MR, or is 65 or older and in a mental health hospital to be eligible for the Sooner Seniors Waiver services, his/her countable resources cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual listed in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.

(C) **Equity in capital resources.** If the equity in the individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources can not reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(3) **Individual with a spouse in the home who is not in a Home and Community Based Waiver Program.** When only one individual of a couple in their own home is in a HCBW Program, income and resources are determined separately. However, the income and resources of the individual who is not in the HCBW program (community spouse) must be included on the application form. At redetermination of eligibility, the community spouse's income must be included in the review process. During any month that the individual is in Sooner Seniors Waiver program services, the income of the community spouse is not considered available to that individual. The following rules are used to determine the income and resources of each:

(A) **Income eligibility.** To determine the income of both spouses, the rules in (i) - (v) of this subparagraph apply.

(i) If payment of income is made solely to one or the other, the income is considered available only to that individual.

(ii) If payment of income is made to both, one-half is considered for each individual.

(iii) If payment of income is made to either one or both and another person(s), the income is considered in proportion to either spouse's interest (if payment is to that spouse) or one-half of the joint interest if no interest is specified.

(iv) If a legal instrument exists which specifies terms of payment, income is considered according to the terms of
(v) After determination of income, the gross income of the individual in the Sooner Seniors Waiver program cannot exceed the categorically needy standard in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. B. 1., to be eligible for care. If the individual's gross income exceeds this standard, refer to SoonerCare rules for establishing a Medicaid Income Pension Trust [OAC 317:35-5-41.6(a)(6)(B)].

(B) Resource eligibility. To determine resource eligibility, it is necessary to determine the amount of resources for both spouses for the month of the individual's application for the Sooner Seniors Waiver program. Of the resources available to the couple (both individual and joint ownership) an amount will be protected for the community spouse which will not be considered available to the spouse receiving Sooner Seniors Waiver program services. The amount determined as the spousal share is used for all subsequent applications for SoonerCare, regardless of changes in the couple's resources. The protected spousal share cannot be changed for any reason.

When application for SoonerCare is made at the same time the individual begins receiving Sooner Seniors program services, OKDHS Form 08MA012E, Title XIX Worksheet, is used.

(i) The first step in the assessment process is to establish the total amount of resources for the couple during the month of application of the spouse into the Sooner Seniors Waiver program (regardless of payment source).

(ii) The community spouse's share is equal to one-half of the total resources of the couple not to exceed the maximum amount of resource value that can be protected for the community spouse, as shown on OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule XI.

(iii) The minimum resource standard for the community spouse, as established by the OHCA, is found on OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule XI. When the community spouse's share is less than the minimum standard, an amount may be deemed from the other spouse's share to ensure the minimum resource standard for the community spouse. If the community spouse's share equals or exceeds the minimum resource standard, deeming cannot be done.

(iv) If deeming is necessary to meet the minimum resource standard for the community spouse, the amount that is deemed must be legally transferred to the community spouse within one year of the effective date of certification for SoonerCare. At the first redetermination of eligibility, the worker must document that the resources have been
transferred. After the first year of SoonerCare eligibility, resources of the community spouse will not be available to the other spouse and resources cannot be deemed to the community spouse.

(v) After the month in which the institutionalized spouse and community spouse have met the resource standard and the institutionalized spouse is determined eligible for benefits, no resources of the community spouse, regardless of value, will be considered available to the institutionalized spouse. If the resources of the community spouse grow to exceed the original deemed amount, the State cannot require the community spouse to apply any of these excess resources toward the cost of the care of the institutionalized spouse.

(vi) When determining eligibility for SoonerCare, the community spouse's share of resources is protected and the remainder considered available to the spouse receiving Sooner Seniors Waiver program services.

(vii) The resources determined in (i) - (vi) of this subparagraph for the individual receiving Sooner Seniors Waiver program services cannot exceed the maximum resource standard for an individual as shown in OKDHS form 08AX001E, Schedule VIII. D.

(viii) Once the dollar value of the community spouse's share of resources is established for the month of the other spouse's entry into the Sooner Seniors Waiver program, that amount is used when determining resource eligibility for a subsequent SoonerCare application for Long-Term Care for either spouse.

(ix) Once a determination of eligibility for SoonerCare is made, either spouse is entitled to a fair hearing. A fair hearing regarding the determination of the community spouse's resource allowance is held within 30 days of the date of the request for the hearing. Either spouse is entitled to a fair hearing if dissatisfied with a determination of:

(I) the community spouse's monthly income allowance;

(II) the amount of monthly income otherwise available to the community spouse;

(III) determination of the spousal share of resource;

(IV) the attribution of resources (amount deemed); or

(V) the determination of the community spouse's resource allowance.

(x) The rules on determination of income and resources are applicable only when an individual receiving Sooner Seniors Waiver program services is likely to remain under
care for 30 consecutive days. The 30-day requirement is considered to have been met even if a hospital stay interrupts it or the individual is deceased before the 30-day period ends.

(C) **Excess resources.** If the equity in the individual's capital resources is in excess of the maximum resource standards, certification is delayed up to 30 days providing plans are made for the applicant to utilize the excess resource. Certification is made at the point the excess resources have been exhausted, with the effective date of certification being shown as the date on which the resources came within the standard. If the excess capital resources cannot reasonably be expected to come within standards in one month, the application is denied.

(4) **Transfer of assets on or after August 11, 1993 but before February 8, 2006.** An institutionalized individual, an institutionalized individual's spouse, the guardian or legal representative of the individual or individual's spouse who disposes of assets on or after August 11, 1993 but before February 8, 2006 for less than fair market value on or after the look-back date specified in (A) of this paragraph subjects the individual to a penalty period for the disposal of such assets.

(A) For an institutionalized individual, the look-back date is 36 months before the first day the individual is both institutionalized and has applied for SoonerCare. However, in the case of payments from a trust or portions of a trust that are treated as transfers of assets, the look back date is 60 months.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, an "institutionalized" individual is one who is receiving HCBW program services.

(C) The penalty period begins the first day of the first month during which assets have been transferred and which does not occur in any other period of ineligibility due to an asset transfer. When there have been multiple transfers, all transferred assets are added together to determine the penalty.

(D) The penalty period consists of a period of ineligibility (whole number of months) determined by dividing the total uncompensated value of the asset by the average monthly cost ($2,000) to a private patient in an NF or Hospital level of care in Oklahoma. In this calculation, any partial month is dropped. There is no limit to the length of the penalty period for these transfers. Uncompensated value is defined as the difference between the fair market value at the time of transfer less encumbrances and the amount received for the
(E) Assets are defined as all income and resources of the individual and the individual's spouse, including any income or resources which the individual or such individual's spouse is entitled to but does not receive because of action:

(i) by the individual or such individual's spouse;
(ii) by a person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or such individual's spouse; or
(iii) by any person, including any court or administrative body acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or such individual's spouse.

(F) A penalty would not apply if:

(i) the title to the individual's home was transferred to:
   (I) the spouse;
   (II) the individual's child who is under age 21 or is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security;
   (III) a sibling who has equity interest in the home and resided in the home for at least one year immediately prior to the institutionalization of the individual; or
   (IV) the individual's son or daughter who resided in the home and provided care for at least two years immediately prior to the institutionalization.

(ii) the individual can show satisfactorily that the intent was to dispose of assets at fair market value or that the transfer was exclusively for a purpose other than eligibility. It is presumed that any transfer of assets made for less than fair market value was made in order to qualify the individual for SoonerCare. In order to rebut this presumption, the individual must present compelling evidence that a transfer was made for reasons other than to qualify for SoonerCare. It is not sufficient for an individual to claim that assets were transferred solely for the purposes of allowing another to have them with ostensibly no thought of SoonerCare if the individual qualifies for SoonerCare as a result of the transfer.

(iii) the transfer was to the community spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the community spouse in an amount equal to the community spouse's asset allowance.

(iv) the asset was transferred to the individual's child who is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security. The transfer may be to a trust established for the benefit of the individual's child.
(v) the asset was transferred to or from the spouse (either community or institutionalized) or to another person for the sole benefit of the spouse if the assets are not subsequently transferred to still another person for less than fair market value.
(vi) the asset is transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of a disabled individual under the age of 65.
(vii) the denial would result in undue hardship. Such determination should be referred to OKDHS State Office for a decision.

(G) The individual is advised by a written notice of a period of ineligibility due to transfer of assets. The notice explains the period of ineligibility for payment of Sooner Seniors Waiver program services and the continuance of eligibility for other SoonerCare services.

(H) The penalty period can be ended by either all assets being restored or commensurate return being made to the individual.

(I) Once the restoration or commensurate return is made, eligibility is re-determined considering the value of the restored asset or the amount of commensurate return.

(J) The restoration or commensurate return will not entitle the member to benefits for the period of time that the asset remained transferred. An applicant cannot be certified for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services for a period of asset ineligibility.

(K) Assets which are held by an individual with another person or persons, whether held in joint tenancy or tenancy in common or similar arrangement, and the individual's ownership or control of the asset is reduced or eliminated is considered a transfer.

(L) When a transfer of assets by the spouse of an individual results in a period of ineligibility and the spouse who made such transfer subsequently becomes institutionalized, the period of ineligibility will be apportioned between the two institutionalized spouses.

(5) Transfer of assets on or after February 8, 2006. An institutionalized individual, an institutionalized individual's spouse, the guardian or legal representative of the individual or individual's spouse who disposes of assets on or after February 8, 2006 for less than fair market value on or after the look-back date specified in (A) of this paragraph subjects the individual to a penalty period for the disposal of such assets.

(A) For an institutionalized individual, the look-back date is 60 months before the first day the individual is both
institutionalized and has applied for SoonerCare. However, individuals that have purchased an Oklahoma Long-Term Care Partnership Program approved policy may be completely or partially exempted from this Section depending on the monetary extent of the insurance benefits paid.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, an "institutionalized" individual is one who is receiving Sooner Seniors program services.

(C) The penalty period will begin with the later of:
   (i) the first day of a month during which assets have been transferred for less than fair market value; or
   (ii) the date on which the individual is:
       (I) eligible for medical assistance; and
       (II) receiving institutional level of care services that, were it not for the imposition of the penalty period, would be covered by SoonerCare.

(D) The penalty period:
   (i) cannot begin until the expiration of any existing period of ineligibility;
   (ii) will not be interrupted or temporarily suspended once it is imposed;
   (iii) when there have been multiple transfers, all transferred assets are added together to determine the penalty.

(E) The penalty period consists of a period of ineligibility determined by dividing the total uncompensated value of the asset by the average monthly cost to a private patient in a nursing facility in Oklahoma shown on OKDHS form 08AX001E. In this calculation, the penalty must include a partial month disqualification based upon the relationship between that fractional amount and the average monthly cost to a private patient in a nursing facility in Oklahoma. There is no limit to the length of the penalty period for these transfers. Uncompensated value is defined as the difference between the fair market value at the time of transfer less encumbrances and the amount received for the resource.

(F) Assets are defined as all income and resources of the individual and the individual's spouse, including any income or resources which the individual or such individual's spouse is entitled to but does not receive because of action:
   (i) by the individual or such individual's spouse;
   (ii) by a person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or such individual's spouse; or
(iii) by any person, including any court or administrative body acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or such individual's spouse.

(G) Special Situations.

(i) Separate Maintenance or Divorce.

(I) There shall be presumed to be a transfer of assets if an applicant or member receives less than half of the couple's resources pursuant to a Decree of Separate Maintenance or a Decree of Divorce.

(II) There shall be presumed to be a transfer of assets if the income is reduced to an amount lower than the individual's own income plus half of the joint income. The transfer penalty shall be calculated monthly.

(III) Assets which were exempt lose the exempt character when not retained by the applicant or member in the divorce or separate maintenance. These assets, if received by the other spouse, are counted when determining the penalty.

(IV) The applicant or member may rebut the presumption of transfer by showing compelling evidence that the uneven division of income or resources was the result of factors unrelated to SoonerCare eligibility.

(ii) Inheritance from a spouse.

(I) Oklahoma law provides that a surviving spouse is entitled to a minimum portion of a deceased spouse's probate estate. The amount depends on several factors.

(II) It is considered a transfer if the deceased spouse's will places all, or some, of the statutory share the applicant or member is entitled to receive in a trust which the applicant or member does not have unfettered access to or leaves less than the statutory amount to the applicant or member, who does not then elect to receive the statutory share in probate proceedings.

(H) A penalty would not apply if:

(i) the title to the individual's home was transferred to:

(I) the spouse; or

(II) the individual's child who is under age 21 or is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security; or

(III) a sibling who has equity interest in the home and resided in the home for at least one year immediately prior to the institutionalization of the individual; or

(IV) the individual's son or daughter who resided in the home and provided care for at least two years
immediately prior to the individual's institutionalization.

(ii) the individual can show satisfactorily that the intent was to dispose of assets at fair market value or that the transfer was exclusively for a purpose other than eligibility. It is presumed that any transfer of assets made for less than fair market value was made in order to qualify the individual for SoonerCare. In order to rebut this presumption, the individual must present compelling evidence that a transfer was made for reasons other than to qualify for SoonerCare. It is not sufficient for an individual to claim that assets were transferred solely for the purposes of allowing another to have them with ostensibly no thought of SoonerCare if the individual qualifies for SoonerCare as a result of the transfer.

(iii) the transfer was to the community spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the community spouse in an amount equal to the community spouse's asset allowance. "Sole benefit" means that the amount transferred will be used for the benefit of the community spouse during his or her expected life.

(iv) the asset was transferred to the individual's child who is blind or totally disabled as determined by Social Security. The transfer may be to a trust established for the benefit of the individual's child.

(v) the asset was transferred to or from the spouse (either community or institutionalized) or to another person for the sole benefit of the spouse if the assets are not subsequently transferred to still another person for less than fair market value. "Sole benefit" means that the amount transferred will be used for the benefit of the spouse (either community or institutionalized) during his or her expected life.

(vi) the asset is transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of a disabled individual under the age of 65.

(vii) the denial would result in undue hardship. Undue hardship exists when application of a transfer of assets penalty would deprive the individual of medical care such that the individual's health or life would be endangered; or of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life.

(I) An undue hardship does not exist if the individual willingly transferred assets for the purpose of qualifying for SoonerCare services through the use of the undue hardship exemption.
(II) Such determination should be referred to OKDHS State Office for a decision.

(III) If the undue hardship exists because the applicant was exploited, legal action must be pursued to return the transferred assets to the applicant before a hardship waiver will be granted. Pursuing legal action means an APS referral has been made to the district attorney's office or a lawsuit has been filed and is being pursued against the perpetrator.

(I) The individual is advised by a written notice of a period of ineligibility due to transfer of assets, a timely process for determining whether an undue hardship waiver will be granted and a process for an adverse determination appeal. The notice explains the period of ineligibility for payment of Sooner Seniors Waiver program services and the continuance of eligibility for other SoonerCare services.

(J) The penalty period can be ended by either all assets being restored or commensurate return being made to the individual.

(K) Once the restoration or commensurate return is made, eligibility is re-determined considering the value of the restored asset or the amount of commensurate return.

(L) The restoration or commensurate return will not entitle the member to benefits for the period of time that the asset remained transferred. An applicant cannot be certified for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services for a period of asset ineligibility.

(M) Assets which are held by an individual with another person or persons, whether held in joint tenancy or tenancy in common or similar arrangement, and the individual's ownership or control of the asset is reduced or eliminated is considered a transfer. The exception to this rule is if ownership of a joint account is divided according to the amount contributed by each owner.

(i) Documentation must be provided to show each co-owner's contribution;

(ii) The funds contributed by the applicant or SoonerCare member end up in an account owned solely by the applicant or member.

(N) When a transfer of assets by the spouse of an individual results in a period of ineligibility and the spouse who made such transfer subsequently becomes institutionalized, the period of ineligibility will be apportioned between the two institutionalized spouses.

(6) Commensurate return. Commensurate return for purposes of this Section is defined as actual money payment or documentation.
of money spent on the member's behalf; i.e., property taxes, medical debts, nursing care expenses, etc., corresponding to the market value of the transferred property. The definition does not include personal services, labor or provision of rent-free shelter. It also does not include a monetary value assigned and projected for future payment either by cash or provision of services. Any transfer of property within the five years prior to application or during receipt of assistance must be analyzed in regard to commensurate return as well as determination of intent.
317:50-5-7. Certification for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services

(a) Financial certification period for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services. The financial certification period for the Sooner Seniors Waiver program is 12 months.

(b) Medical Certification period for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services. The medical certification period for Sooner Seniors Waiver program services is 12 months. Reassessment and redetermination of medical eligibility is completed in coordination with the annual recertification of the member's service plan. If documentation supports a reasonable expectation that the member will not continue to meet medical eligibility criteria or have a need for long term care services for more than 12 months, an independent evaluation of medical eligibility is completed before the end of the current medical certification period.
317:50-5-8. Redetermination of eligibility for Sooner Seniors Waiver services

A redetermination of medical and financial eligibility must be completed prior to the end of the certification period.
317:50-5-9. Member annual level of care re-evaluation and annual re-authorization of service plan

(a) Annually, the case manager reassesses the member's needs and the service plan, especially with respect to progress of the member toward service plan goals and objectives. Based on the reassessment, the case manager develops a new service plan with the member and service providers, as appropriate, and submits the new service plan for certification along with the supporting documentation and the assessment of the existing service plan. The case manager initiates the fourth quarter monitoring to allow sufficient time for certification of a new service plan prior to the expiration date on the existing service plan.

(b) At a maximum of every 11 months, the case manager makes a home visit to evaluate the Sooner Seniors Waiver member using the UCAT, Parts I and III and other information as necessary as part of the annual service plan development process.

(1) The case manager's assessment of a member done within a 60-day period prior to the existing service plan end date is the basis for medical eligibility redetermination.

(2) As part of the service plan recertification process, the member is evaluated for the continued need for Nursing Facility level of care.

(3) Based on evaluation of the UCAT, a determination of continued medical eligibility is made and recertification of medical eligibility is done prior to the expiration date of current medical eligibility certification. If medical eligibility recertification is not made prior to current medical eligibility expiration, the existing medical eligibility certification is automatically extended until recertification is determined or for 60 days, whichever is less. If the member no longer meets medical eligibility, upon making the level of care determination, the member's "medical eligibility end date" is updated in the system. The member's case manager is notified that the member has been determined to no longer meet medical eligibility for Sooner Seniors Waiver services as of the effective date of the eligibility determination. The member is notified and if the member requests, the case manager helps the member arrange alternate services in place of Sooner Seniors Waiver services.
317:50-5-10. Sooner Seniors Waiver services during hospitalization or nursing facility placement

If a member requires hospital or nursing facility services, the case manager assists the member in accessing institutional care, periodically monitors the member's progress during the institutional stay and, as appropriate, updates the service plan and prepares services to start on the date the member is discharged from the institution and returns home.

(1) Hospital discharge. When the member returns home from a hospital or when notified of the member's anticipated discharge date, the case manager notifies relevant providers and coordinates the resumption of services.

(2) NF placement of less than 30 days. When the member returns home from a NF stay of 30 days or less or when notified of the member's anticipated discharge date the case manager notifies relevant providers and coordinates the resumption of Sooner Seniors Waiver services in the home.

(3) NF placement greater than 30 days. When the member is scheduled to be discharged and return home from a NF stay that is greater than 30 days, the member's case manager expedites the restart of Sooner Seniors Waiver services for the member.
317:50-5-11. Closure or termination of Sooner Seniors Waiver services

(a) Voluntary closure of Sooner Seniors Waiver services. If the member requests a lower level of care than Sooner Seniors Waiver services or if the member agrees that Sooner Seniors Waiver services are no longer needed to meet his/her needs, a medical decision is not needed. The closure request is completed and signed by the member and the case manager and placed in the member's case record. Documentation is made of all circumstances involving the reasons for the voluntary termination of services and alternatives for services if written request for closure cannot be secured.

(b) Closure due to financial or medical ineligibility. The process for closure due to financial or medical ineligibility is described in this subsection.

(1) Financial ineligibility. Anytime it is determined that a member does not meet the financial eligibility criteria, the member and provider are notified of financial ineligibility. A medical eligibility redetermination is not required when a financial ineligibility period does not exceed the medical certification period.

(2) Medical ineligibility. When the member is found to no longer be medically eligible for Sooner Seniors Waiver services, the individual and provider are notified of the decision.

(c) Closure due to other reasons. Refer to OAC 317:50-5-3(d).

(d) Resumption of Sooner Seniors Waiver services. If a member approved for Sooner Seniors Waiver services has been without services for less than 90 days and has a current medical and financial eligibility determination, services may be resumed using the previously approved service plan. If a member decides he/she desires to have his/her services restarted after 90 days, the member must request the services.
317:50-5-12. Eligible providers

Sooner Seniors Program service providers must be certified by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) and all providers must have a current signed SoonerCare contract on file.

(1) The provider programmatic certification process verifies that the provider meets licensure, certification and training standards as specified in the Waiver document and agrees to Sooner Seniors Program Conditions of Participation. Providers must obtain programmatic certification to be Sooner Seniors Program certified.

(2) The provider financial certification process verifies that the provider uses sound business management practices and has a financially stable business.

(3) Providers may fail to gain or may lose Waiver Program certification due to failure to meet either programmatic or financial standards.

(4) At a minimum, provider financial certification is reevaluated annually.

(5) Providers of Medical Equipment and Supplies, Environmental Modifications, Personal Emergency Response Systems, Hospice, and NF Respite services do not have a programmatic evaluation after the initial certification.

(6) OHCA may authorize a legally responsible family member (spouse or legal guardian) of an adult member to be SoonerCare reimbursed under the Sooner Seniors Program as a service provider, if the provider meets all of the following authorization criteria and monitoring provisions:

(A) Authorization for a legally responsible family member to be the care provider for a member may occur only if the member is offered a choice of providers and documentation demonstrates that:

(i) either no other provider is available; or
(ii) available providers are unable to provide necessary care to the member; or
(iii) the needs of the member are so extensive that the spouse or legal guardian who provides the care is prohibited from working outside the home due to the member's need for care.

(B) The service must:

(i) meet the definition of a service/support as outlined in the federally approved Waiver document;
(ii) be necessary to avoid institutionalization;
(iii) be a service/support that is specified in the individual service plan;
(iv) be provided by a person who meets the provider qualifications and training standards specified in the
Waiver for that service;
(v) be paid at a rate that does not exceed that which would otherwise be paid to a provider of a similar service and does not exceed what is allowed by the OHCA for the payment of personal care or personal assistance services;
(vi) not be an activity that the spouse or legal guardian would ordinarily perform or is responsible to perform. If any of the following criteria are met, assistance or care provided by the spouse or guardian will be determined to exceed the extent and/or nature of the assistance they would be expected to ordinarily provide in their role as spouse or guardian:
(I) spouse or guardian has resigned from full-time/part-time employment to provide care for the member; or
(II) spouse or guardian has reduced employment from full-time to part-time to provide care for the member; or
(III) spouse or guardian has taken a leave of absence without pay to provide care for the member; or
(IV) spouse or guardian provides assistance/care for the member 35 or more hours per week without pay and the member has remaining unmet needs because no other provider is available due to the nature of the assistance/care, special language or communication, or intermittent hours of care requirements of the member.
(C) The spouse or legal guardian who is a service provider will comply with the following:
(i) not provide more than 40 hours of services in a seven day period;
(ii) planned work schedules must be available in advance to the member's Case Manager, and variations to the schedule must be noted and supplied two weeks in advance to the Case Manager unless change is due to an emergency;
(iii) maintain and submit time sheets and other required documentation for hours paid; and
(iv) be documented in the service plan as the member's care provider.
(D) In addition to case management, monitoring, and reporting activities required for all Waiver services, the state is obligated to additional monitoring requirements when members elect to use a spouse or legal guardian as a paid service provider. The OHCA will monitor through documentation submitted by the Case Manager the following:
(i) at least quarterly reviews by the Case Manager of expenditures and the health, safety, and welfare status of
the individual member; and
(ii) face-to-face visits with the member by the Case Manager on at least a semi annual basis.

(7) The OHCA periodically performs a programmatic audit of Case Management, Home Care (providers of Skilled Nursing, State Plan Personal Care, In-Home Respite, Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance and Therapy Services), and Self-Directed service providers. If due to a programmatic audit, a provider Plan of Correction is required, the OHCA stops new case referrals to the provider until the Plan of Correction has been approved and implemented. Depending on the nature and severity of problems discovered during a programmatic audit, at the discretion of the OHCA, members determined to be at risk for health or safety may be transferred from a provider requiring a Plan of Correction to another provider.

(8) As additional providers are certified or if a provider loses certification, the OHCA provides notice to appropriate personnel in counties affected by the certification changes.
317:50-5-13. Coverage

Individuals receiving Waiver services must have been determined to be eligible for the program and must have an approved plan of care. Any Sooner Seniors Program service provided must be listed on the approved plan of care and must be necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member. Waiver services which are expansions of Oklahoma Medicaid State Plan services may only be provided after the member has exhausted these services available under the State Plan.

(1) To allow for development of administrative structures and provider capacity to adequately deliver Self-Directed services and Supports, availability of Self-Direction is limited to Sooner Seniors Program members that reside in counties that have sufficient provider capacity to offer the Self-Directed Service option as determined by OHCA.

(2) Case Managers within the Self-Directed Services approved area will provide information and materials that explain the service option to the members. The OHCA provides information and material on Self-Direction to Case Managers for distribution to members.

(3) The member may request to Self-Direct their services from their Case Manager or call the Sooner Seniors Program toll-free number to request the Self-Directed Services option.
317:50-5-14. Description of services

Services included in the Sooner Seniors Program are as follows:

(1) Case Management.

(A) Case Management services are services that assist a member in gaining access to medical, social, educational or other services, regardless of payment source of services, that may benefit the member in maintaining health and safety. Case managers initiate and oversee necessary assessments and reassessments to establish or reestablish Waiver program eligibility. Case managers develop the member's comprehensive plan of care, listing only services which are necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member, as determined through assessments. Case managers initiate the addition of necessary services or deletion of unnecessary services, as dictated by the member's condition and available support. Case managers monitor the member's condition to ensure delivery and appropriateness of services and initiate plan of care reviews. If a member requires hospital or nursing facility services, the case manager assists the member in accessing institutional care and, as appropriate, periodically monitors the member's progress during the institutional stay and helps the member transition from institution to home by updating the service plan and preparing services to start on the date the member is discharged from the institution. Case Managers must meet Sooner Seniors Waiver Program minimum requirements for qualification and training prior to providing services to members. Prior to providing services to members choosing to Self-Direct their services, Case Managers are required to receive training and demonstrate knowledge regarding the Self-Directed Service delivery model.

(B) Providers may only claim time for billable Case Management activities described as follows:

(i) A billable case management activity is any task or function defined under OAC 317:50-5-14(1)(A) that only a Sooner Seniors case manager because of skill, training or authority, can perform on behalf of a member;

(ii) Ancillary activities such as clerical tasks like mailing, copying, filing, faxing, drive time or supervisory/administrative activities are not billable case management activities, although the administrative cost of these activities and other normal and customary business overhead costs have been included in the reimbursement rate for billable activities.

(C) Case Management services are prior authorized and billed per 15-minute unit of service using the rate associated with
the location of residence of the member served.

(i) Standard Rate: Case Management services are billed using a Standard rate for reimbursement for billable service activities provided to a member who resides in a county with population density greater than 25 persons per square mile.

(ii) Very Rural/Difficult Service Area Rate: Case Management services are billed using a Very Rural/Difficult Service Area rate for billable service activities provided to a member who resides in a county with population density equal to or less than 25 persons per square mile. An exception would be services to members that reside in OHCA identified zip codes in Osage County adjacent to metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Washington Counties. Services to these members are prior authorized and billed using the Standard rate.

(iii) The latest United States Census, Oklahoma Counties population data is the source for determination of whether a member resides in a county with a population density equal to or less than 25 persons per square mile, or resides in a county with a population density greater than 25 persons per square mile.

(2) Respite.

(A) Respite services are provided to members who are unable to care for themselves. They are provided on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of the primary caregiver. Payment for respite care does not include room and board costs unless more than seven hours are provided in a nursing facility. Respite care will only be utilized when other sources of care and support have been exhausted. Respite care will only be listed on the plan of care when it is necessary to prevent institutionalization of the member. Units of services are limited to the number of units approved on the plan of care.

(B) In-Home Respite services are billed per 15-minute unit service. Within any one-day period, a minimum of eight units must be provided with a maximum of 28 units provided. The service is provided in the member's home.

(C) Facility-Based Extended Respite is filed for a per diem rate, if provided in Nursing Facility. Extended Respite must be at least eight hours in duration.

(D) In-Home Extended Respite is filed for a per diem rate. A minimum of eight hours must be provided in the member's home.

(3) Environmental Modifications.

(A) Environmental Modifications are physical adaptations to the home, required by the member's plan of care, which are
necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and without which, the member would require institutionalization. Adaptations or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the Waiver member are excluded.

(B) All services require prior authorization.

4 Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies.

(A) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies are devices, controls, or appliances specified in the plan of care, which enable members to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living, or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live. Also included are items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies and equipment necessary to the proper functioning of such items, and durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid state plan. This service excludes any equipment and/or supply items which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the Waiver member. This service is necessary to prevent institutionalization.

(B) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies are billed using the appropriate HCPC procedure code. Reoccurring supplies which are shipped to the member are compensable only when the member remains eligible for Waiver services, continues to reside in the home and is not institutionalized in a hospital or nursing home. It is the provider's responsibility to verify the member's status prior to shipping these items. Payment for medical supplies is limited to the Medicare rate, or the SoonerCare rate, or actual acquisition cost plus 30 percent.

5 Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance.

(A) Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance services are maintenance services to assist a member who has a chronic, yet stable, condition. These services assist with activities of daily living which require devices and procedures related to altered body functions. This service is for maintenance only and is not utilized as a treatment service.

(B) Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance service is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of this service a member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the plan of care.

6 Nursing.

(A) Nursing services are services listed in the plan of care which are within the scope of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and are provided by a registered professional nurse, or
licensed practical or vocational nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed to practice in the State. Nursing services include skilled nursing and/or private duty nursing. Skilled nursing is provided on an intermittent or part-time basis. Private duty nursing is individual and continuous care provided to a participant at home by licensed nurses. The provision of the nursing service will work to prevent or postpone the institutionalization of the member. (B) Nursing services are services of a maintenance or preventive nature provided to members with stable, chronic conditions. These services are not intended to treat an acute health condition and may not include services which would be reimbursable under either Medicaid or Medicare's Home Health Program. This service primarily provides nurse supervision to the Personal Care Assistant or to the Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance Aide and assesses the member's health and prescribed medical services to ensure that they meet the member's needs as specified in the plan of care. A skilled nursing assessment/evaluation on-site visit is made to each member for whom Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance services are authorized to evaluate the condition of the member and medical appropriateness of services. An assessment/evaluation visit report will be made to the Sooner Seniors Waiver case manager in accordance with review schedule determined in consultation between the Case Manager and the Skilled Nurse, to report the member's condition or other significant information concerning each advanced supportive/restorative care member. (i) The case manager may recommend authorization of Skilled Nursing services as part of the interdisciplinary team planning for the member's service plan and/or assessment/evaluation of:

(I) the member's general health, functional ability and needs and/or
(II) the adequacy of personal care and/or advanced supportive/restorative assistance services to meet the member's needs including providing on-the-job training and competency testing for personal care or advanced supportive/restorative care aides in accordance with rules and regulations for delegation of nursing tasks as established by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

(ii) In addition to assessment/evaluation, the case manager may recommend authorization of Skilled Nursing services for the following:

(I) preparing a one-week supply of insulin syringes for a blind diabetic, who can safely self-inject the
medication but cannot fill his/her own syringe. This service would include monitoring the member's continued ability to self-administer the insulin;

(II) preparing oral medications in divided daily compartments for a member who self-administers prescribed medications but needs assistance and monitoring due to a minimal level of disorientation or confusion;

(III) monitoring a member's skin condition when a member is at risk for skin breakdown due to immobility or incontinence, or the member has a chronic stage II decubitus ulcer requiring maintenance care and monitoring;

(IV) providing nail care for the diabetic member or member with circulatory or neurological compromise;

(V) providing consultation and education to the member, member's family and/or other informal caregivers identified in the service plan, regarding the nature of the member's chronic condition. Provide skills training (including return skills demonstration to establish competency) to the member, family and/or other informal caregivers as specified in the service plan for preventive and rehabilitative care procedures.

(C) Nursing service can be billed for service plan development and/or assessment/evaluation services or, for other services within the scope of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act including private duty nursing. Nursing services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. A specific procedure code is used to bill for assessment/evaluation/service plan development skilled nursing services and other procedure codes are used to bill for all other authorized nursing services. A maximum of eight units per day of skilled nursing for assessment/evaluation and/or service plan development are allowed. An agreement by a provider to perform a nurse evaluation is also an agreement, to provide the nurse assessment identified in the Medicaid in-home care services for which the provider is certified and contracted. Reimbursement for a nurse evaluation is denied if the provider that produced the nurse evaluation fails to provide the nurse assessment identified in the Medicaid in-home care services for which the provider is certified and contracted.

(7) Home Delivered Meals.

(A) Home Delivered Meals provide one meal per day. A home delivered meal is a meal prepared in advance and brought to the member's home. Each meal must have a nutritional content
equal to at least one third of the Recommended Daily Allowance as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Meals are only provided to members who are unable to prepare meals and lack an informal provider to do meal preparation.

(B) Home Delivered Meals are billed per meal, with one meal equaling one unit of service. The limit of the number of units a member is allowed to receive is limited on the member's plan of care. The provider must obtain a signature from the member or the member's representative at the time the meals are delivered. In the event that the member is temporarily unavailable (i.e., doctor's appointment, etc.) and the meal is left, the provider must document the reason a signature is not obtained. The signature logs must be available for review.

(8) Occupational Therapy services.

(A) Occupational Therapy services are those services that increase functional independence by enhancing the development of adaptive skills and performance capacities of members with physical disabilities and related psychological and cognitive impairments. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Treatment involves the therapeutic use of self-care, work and play activities and may include modification of the tasks or environment to enable the member to achieve maximum independence, prevent further disability, and maintain health. Under a physician's order, a licensed occupational therapist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional occupational therapy assistant services, within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed occupational therapist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Occupational Therapy services are billed per 15-minute unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.

(9) Physical Therapy services.

(A) Physical Therapy services are those services that prevent
physical disability through the evaluation and rehabilitation of members disabled by pain, disease or injury. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Treatment involves use of physical therapeutic means such as massage, manipulation, therapeutic exercise, cold or heat therapy, hydrotherapy, electrical stimulation and light therapy. Under a physician's order, a licensed physical therapist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate, written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional physical therapy assistant services, within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed physical therapist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation potential.

(B) Physical Therapy services are billed per 15-minute units of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written reports or record documentation.

(10) **Speech and Language Therapy services.**

(A) Speech/Language Therapy services are those that prevent speech and language communication disability through the evaluation and rehabilitation of members disabled by pain, disease or injury. Services are provided in the member's home and are intended to help the member achieve greater independence to reside and participate in the community. Services involve use of therapeutic means such as evaluation, specialized treatment, and/or development and oversight of a therapeutic maintenance program. Under a physician's order, a licensed Speech/Language Pathologist evaluates the member's rehabilitation potential and develops an appropriate, written therapeutic regimen. The regimen utilizes paraprofessional therapy assistant services within the limits of their practice, working under the supervision of the licensed Speech/Language Pathologist. The regimen includes education and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or maintain services, where appropriate. The Pathologist will ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's rehabilitative progress and will report to the member's case manager and physician to coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services, based on the member's condition and
ongoing rehabilitation potential.
(B) Speech/Language Therapy services are billed per 15-minute
unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written
reports or record documentation.

(11) **Respiratory therapy services.**
(A) Respiratory therapy services are provided for a member
who, but for the availability of in-home respiratory
services, would require respiratory care as an inpatient in a
hospital or nursing facility. Services are provided in the
member's home under the care of a physician who is familiar
with the technical and medical components of home ventilator
support and the physician must determine medically that in-
home respiratory care is safe and feasible for the member.
Treatment involved s use of therapeutic means such as:
evaluation, respiratory treatments, chest physiotherapy,
and/or development and oversight of a therapeutic maintenance
program. Under a physician's order, a registered respiratory
therapist evaluates the member and develops an appropriate,
written therapeutic regimen. The regimen includes education
and training for informal caregivers to assist with and/or
maintain services, where appropriate. The therapist will
ensure monitoring and documentation of the member's progress
and will report to the member's case manager and physician to
coordinate necessary addition and/or deletion of services,
based on the member's condition and ongoing rehabilitation
potential.
(B) Respiratory Therapy services are billed per 15-minute
unit of service. Payment is not allowed solely for written
reports or record documentation.

(12) **Hospice services.**
(A) Hospice is palliative and/or comfort care provided to the
member and his/her family when a physician certifies that the
member has a terminal illness and has six months or less to
live and orders Hospice Care. A hospice program offers
d palliative and supportive care to meet the special needs
arising out of the physical, emotional and spiritual stresses
which are experienced during the final stages of illness and
during dying and bereavement. The member signs a statement
choosing hospice care instead of routine medical care that
has the objective to treat and cure the member's illness.
Once the member has elected hospice care, the hospice medical
team assumes responsibility for the member's medical care for
the terminal illness in the home environment. Hospice care
services include nursing care, physician services, medical
equipment and supplies, drugs for symptom control and pain
relief, home health aide and personal care services,
physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, medical social services, dietary counseling and grief and bereavement counseling to the member and/or family. A Hospice plan of care must be developed by the hospice team in conjunction with the member's case manager before hospice services are provided. The hospice services must be related to the palliation or management of the member's terminal illness, symptom control, or to enable the individual to maintain activities of daily living and basic functional skills. Hospice may be provided to the member in a Nursing Facility (NF) only when the member is placed in the NF for Sooner Seniors Facility Based Extended Respite. Hospice provided as part of Facility Based Extended respite may not be reimbursed for more than five days during any 30 day period. A member that is eligible for Medicare Hospice provided as a Medicare Part A benefit, is not eligible to receive Sooner Seniors Hospice services.

(B) Hospice services are billed per diem of service for days covered by a Hospice plan of care and during which the Hospice provider is responsible for providing Hospice services as needed by the member or member's family.

(13) Sooner Seniors Waiver Personal Care.

(A) Sooner Seniors Personal Care is assistance to a member in carrying out activities of daily living such as bathing, grooming and toileting, or in carrying out instrumental activities of daily living, such as preparing meals and doing laundry, to assure personal health and safety of the individual or to prevent or minimize physical health regression or deterioration. Personal Care services do not include service provision of a technical nature, i.e. tracheal suctioning, bladder catheterization, colostomy irrigation, and operation/maintenance of equipment of a technical nature.

(B) Sooner Seniors Home Care Agency Skilled Nursing staff working in coordination with a Case Manager are responsible for development and monitoring of the member's Personal Care plan.

(C) Sooner Seniors Personal Care services are prior authorized and billed per 15-minute unit of service with units of service limited to the number of units on the approved plan of care.

(14) Adult Day Health. Adult Day Health services are scheduled for one or more days per week, in a community setting, encompassing both health and social services needed in order to provide optimal functioning of the member. Transportation between the member's place of residence and the adult day
facility is provided and is included in the rate paid to providers of adult day health services.

(15) **Agency companion.** Agency companion services provide a living arrangement developed to meet the specific needs of the member that include a live-in companion providing supervision, supportive assistance, and training in daily living skills provided in a shared home owned or rented by the member, companion, or in a mutually rented or owned home;

(16) **Dental services.** Dental services include maintenance or improvement of dental health as well as relief of pain and infection. Coverage of dental services may not exceed $1,000 per plan year of care. These services may include:

(A) oral examination;
(B) bite-wing x-rays;
(C) prophylaxis;
(D) topical fluoride treatment;
(E) development of a sequenced treatment plan that prioritizes:
   (i) elimination of pain;
   (ii) adequate oral hygiene; and
   (iii) restoration or improved ability to chew;
(F) routine training of member or primary caregiver regarding oral hygiene; and
(G) preventive restorative, replacement and repair services to achieve or restore functionality are provided after appropriate review if applicable.

(17) **Family training.** Family training services are for families of the member being served through the waiver. For purposes of this service, "family" is defined as the persons who live with or provide care to a waiver member and may include a parent, spouse, children relatives, foster family or in-laws. Training includes instruction for the family member in skills and knowledge pertaining to the support and assistance of the waiver member. This training is specific to an individual member's needs. It is intended to allow the member's family to become more proficient in meeting the needs of the member. Specific family training services are included in the member's service plan.

(18) **Nutritional Education services.** Nutritional Education services focus on assisting the member and/or primary caregiver with the dietary aspects of the member's disease management. These services include dietary evaluation and consultation with individuals or their care provider. Services are provided in the member's home or when appropriate in a class situation. Services are intended to maximize the individual's nutritional health.
Services must be expressly for diagnosing, treating or preventing, or minimizing the effects of illness.

(19) **Vision services.** Vision services must be listed in the member's plan of care and include a routine eye examination for the purpose of prescribing glasses or visual aids, determination of refractive state, treatment of refractive errors or purchase of glasses to include lenses and frames; exceptions are made on the individual basis as deemed medically necessary. Amount, frequency and duration of services is prior authorized in accordance with the member's service plan, with a limit of one pair of glasses to include lenses and frames annually.

(20) **Personal Emergency Response System.**

(A) Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device which enables certain individuals at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency. The individual may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the person's phone and programmed to signal, in accordance with member preference, a friend, a relative or a response center once a "help" button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals. For a Sooner Seniors Program member to be eligible to receive PERS service, the member must meet all of the following service criteria:

(i) a recent history of falls as a result of an existing medical condition that prevents the individual from getting up from a fall unassisted;
(ii) lives alone and has no regular caregiver, paid or unpaid, and therefore is left alone for long periods of time;
(iii) demonstrates capability to comprehend the purpose of and activate the PERS;
(iv) has a health and safety plan detailing the interventions beyond the PERS to assure the member's health and safety in his/her home;
(v) has a disease management plan to implement medical and health interventions that reduce the possibility of falls by managing the member's underlying medical condition causing the falls; and,
(vi) the service avoids premature or unnecessary institutionalization of the member.

(B) PERS services are billed using the appropriate HCPCS procedure code for installation, monthly service or purchase of PERS. All services are prior authorized in accordance with the Sooner Seniors approved plan of care.

(21) **Prescription drugs.** Members are eligible for a maximum of
six prescriptions per month with a limit of three brand name prescriptions. Seven additional generic prescriptions per month are allowed if medically necessary. Medically necessary prescriptions beyond the three brand name or thirteen total prescriptions will be covered with prior authorization. More information on prescription drugs is provided at 317:30-5-72.

(22) **Pharmacological Evaluations.** Pharmacological evaluations are provided to waiver members to ensure proper management of medications. The evaluations consist of:

(A) An initial medication assessment performed in conjunction with the case manager and member.

(B) A written report after completion of both the initial visit and medication assessment to be provided to the case manager and prescribing physician(s). The report will contain the initial medication assessment and recommendations when appropriate.

(C) Follow-up visit, assessments and reports will be arranged with the case manager every four months after the initial visits, assessment and report for the first year the member is in the community. This will result in a total of three follow-up visits, assessments and reports per member.

(23) **Non-emergency Transportation.** Non-emergency, non-ambulance transportation services are available through the SoonerRide Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) program. SoonerRide NET is available on a statewide basis to all eligible members. SoonerRide NET includes non-emergency, non-ambulance transportation for members to and from SoonerCare providers of health care services. The NET must be for the purpose of accessing medically necessary covered services for which a member has available benefits. Additionally, SoonerRide NET may also be provided for eligible members to providers other than SoonerCare providers if the transportation is to access medically necessary services covered by SoonerCare. More information on SoonerRide NET services is located at 317:30-5-326.

(24) **Self-Direction.**

(A) Self-Direction is a method of service delivery that allows waiver members to determine supports and services they need to live successfully in a home or community based setting. A member choosing Self-Direction is the employer of record for his/her Personal Care and Advanced Supportive/Restorative Care service providers and must have an approved plan of care prior to initiation of any Self-Directed activities.

(B) The OHCA uses the following criteria to determine a
member's service eligibility to participate in the Self-Directed Services program:

(i) residence in the Self-Directed services approved area;
(ii) member's health and safety with Self-Directed services can reasonably be assured based on a review of service history records and a review of member capacity and readiness to assume employer responsibilities under Self-Direction with any one of the following findings as basis to deny a request for Self-Direction due to inability to assure member health and safety;

(I) the member does not have the ability to make decisions about his/her care or service planning and the member's "authorized representative" is not willing to assume Self-Directed services responsibilities, or
(II) the member is not willing to assume responsibility, or to enlist an "authorized representative" to assume responsibility, in one or more areas of Self-Direction such as in service planning, or in assuming the role of employer of the Personal Services Assistant (PSA) or Advanced Personal Services Assistant (APSA) service provider, or in monitoring and managing health or in preparation for emergency backup, or
(III) the member has a recent history of self-neglect or self-abuse as evidenced by Adult Protective Services intervention within the past 12 months and does not have an "authorized representative" with capacity to assist with Self-Direction responsibilities;

(C) The member voluntarily makes an informed choice to Self-Direct services. As part of the informed choice, decision making process for Self-Direction, the OHCA staff or the Case Manager provides consultation and assistance as the member completes a self-assessment of preparedness to assume the role of employer for their Personal Services Assistant. The orientation and enrollment process will provide the member with a basic understanding of what will be expected of them under Self-Direction, the supports available to assist them to successfully perform employer responsibilities and an overview of the potential risks involved.

(D) The OHCA uses the following criteria to determine that based upon documentation, a person is no longer allowed to participate in the Self-Directed Services option:

(i) the member does not have the ability to make decisions about his/her care or service planning and the member's "authorized representative" is not willing to assume Self-Direction responsibilities; or
(ii) the member is not willing to assume responsibility, or to enlist an "authorized representative" to assume responsibility, in one or more areas of Self-Direction such as in service planning, or in assuming the role of employer of the PSA or APSA service providers, or in monitoring and managing health or in preparation for emergency backup; or

(iii) the member has a recent history of self-neglect or self-abuse as evidenced by Adult Protective Services intervention and does not have an "authorized representative" with capacity to assist with Self-Direction responsibilities; or

(iv) the member abuses or exploits their employee; or

(v) the member falsifies time-sheets or other work records; or

(vi) the member, even with Case Manager and Financial Management Services assistance, is unable to operate successfully within their Individual Budget Allocation; or

(vii) inferior quality of services provided by member/employer's employee, or the inability of the member/employer's employee to provide the number of service units the member requires, jeopardizes the member's health and/or safety.

(E) The member may designate a family member or friend as an "authorized representative" to assist in the service planning process and in executing member employer responsibilities. If the member chooses to designate an "authorized representative", the designation and agreement identifying the "willing adult" to assume this role and responsibility is documented with dated signatures of the member, the designee and the member's Case Manager or the OHCA staff.

(i) A person having guardianship or power of attorney or other court sanctioned authorization to make decisions on behalf of the member has legal standing to be the member's designated "authorized representative".

(ii) An individual hired to provide Personal Services Assistance to a member may not be designated the "authorized representative" for the member.

(F) Self-Directed Services are delivered as authorized on the service plan and are limited to Personal Care, Advanced Supportive/Restorative Care and Respite. The member employs the Personal Services Assistant (PSA) and/or the Advanced Personal Services Assistant (APSA) and is responsible, with assistance from the Administrative Financial Management Services (FMS), for ensuring that the employment complies with State and Federal Labor Law requirements. The member:
(i) recruits, hires and, as necessary, discharges the PSA and APSA;
(ii) provides instruction and training to the PSA or APSA on tasks to be done and works with the Case Manager to obtain skilled nursing services assistance with training when necessary. Prior to performing an Advanced Personal Services Assistance task for the first time, the APSA must demonstrate competency in the tasks in an on-the-job training session conducted by the member and the member must document the attendant's competency in performing each task in the APSA's personnel file;
(iii) determines where and how the PSA or APSA works, hours of work, what is to be accomplished and, within Individual Budget Allocation limits, wages to be paid for the work;
(iv) supervises and documents employee work time; and,
(v) provides tools and materials for work to be accomplished.

(G) Financial Management Services are program administrative services provided to participating Self-Directed Service employer/members by agencies contracted with the OHCA. Financial Management Services are employer related assistance that provides Internal Revenue Service (IRS) fiscal reporting agent and other financial management tasks and functions including, but not limited to:
(i) employer payroll, at a minimum of semi monthly, and associated withholding for taxes, or for other payroll withholdings performed on behalf of the member as employer of the PSA or APSA;
(ii) other employer related payment disbursements as agreed to with the member and in accordance with the member's Individual Budget Allocation;
(iii) responsibility for obtaining criminal and abuse registry background checks, on behalf of the member, on prospective hires for PSAs or APSAs;
(iv) providing to the member, as needed, assistance with employer related cognitive tasks, decision-making and specialized skills that may include assistance with Individual Budget Allocation planning and support for making decisions including training and providing reference material and consultation regarding employee management tasks such as recruiting, hiring, training and supervising the member's Personal Services Assistant or Advanced Personal Services Assistant; and

(H) The service of Personal Services Assistance is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of PSA a
member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the Service Plan.

(I) The service of Advanced Personal Services Assistance is billed per 15-minute unit of service. The number of units of APSA a member may receive is limited to the number of units approved on the Service Plan.

(J) Self-Directed Services rates are determined using the Individual Budget Allocation (IBA) Expenditure Accounts Determination process for each member. The IBA Expenditure Accounts Determination process includes consideration and decisions about the following:

(i) The Individual Budget Allocation (IBA) Expenditure Accounts Determination constrains total SoonerCare reimbursement for Self-Directed services to be less than expenditures for equivalent services using agency providers.

(ii) The PSA and APSA service unit rates are calculated by the OHCA during the Self-Directed service eligibility determination process. The OHCA sets the PSA and APSA unit rates at a level that is not less than 80 percent and not more than 95 percent of the comparable Agency Personal Care (for PSA) or Advanced Supportive/Restorative (for APSA) service rate. The allocation of portions of the PSA and/or APSA rate to cover salary, mandatory taxes, and optional benefits (including Worker's Compensation insurance, if available) is determined individually for each member using the Self-Directed Services Individualized Budget Allocation Expenditure Accounts Determination Process.

(iii) The IBA Expenditure Accounts Determination process defines the level of program financial resources required to meet the member's need for Self-Directed services. If the member's need for services changes due to a change in health/disability status and/or a change in the level of support available from other sources, the Case Manager, based upon an updated assessment, amends the service plan to increase Self-Directed service units appropriate to meet additional member need. The OHCA, upon favorable review, authorizes the amended plan and updates the member's IBA. Service amendments based on changes in member need for services do not change an existing PSA or APSA rate. The member, with assistance from the FMS, reviews and revises the IBA Expenditure Accounts calculation annually or more often to the extent appropriate and necessary.
317:50-5-15. Reimbursement

Rate methodologies for Waiver services are set in accordance with the rate setting process by the State Plan Amendment Rate Committee (SPARC) and approved by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Board. Rates for Waiver services are set by one of the methodologies below:

(1) A fixed and uniform SoonerCare Rate. When a Waiver service is similar or the same as a Medicaid State Plan service for which a fee schedule has been established, the current SoonerCare rate is utilized.

(2) The current Medicare rate. When the waiver service mirrors an existing Medicare service the current Medicare rate is utilized.

(3) Individual rates. Certain services because of their variables do not lend themselves to a fixed and uniform rate. Payment for these services is made on an individual basis following a uniform process approved by the OHCA.
317:50-5-16. Billing procedures for Sooner Seniors Waiver services
(a) Billing procedures for long-term care medical services are contained in the OKMMIS Billing and Procedure Manual. Questions regarding billing procedures which cannot be resolved through a study of the manual should be referred to the OHCA.
(b) The approved Sooner Seniors Waiver service plan is the basis for the MMIS service prior authorization, specifying:
   (1) service;
   (2) service provider;
   (3) units authorized; and
   (4) begin and end dates of service authorization.
(c) As part of Sooner Seniors Waiver quality assurance, provider audits are used to evaluate whether paid claims are consistent with service plan authorizations and documentation of service provision. Evidence of paid claims that are not supported by service plan authorization and/or documentation of service provision will be turned over to the OHCA Provider Audit Unit for follow-up investigation.
(d) Service time of Personal Care, Case Management, Nursing, Advanced Supportive/Restorative Assistance, In-Home Respite and Self Direction may be documented through the Interactive Voice Response Authentication (IVRA) system when provided in the home. The IVRA system provides alternate backup solutions should the automated system be unavailable. In the event of IVRA backup system failure, the provider will document time in accordance with their agency backup plan. The agency's backup procedures are only permitted when the IVRA system is unavailable.