November 17, 2017

RE: InterQual® Prior Authorization Implementation, Knee & Hip Arthroplasty

Dear Provider:

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is implementing InterQual® guidelines in our prior authorization (PA) request process. InterQual® evidence-based questions and answers will be embedded into the SoonerCare Provider Portal PA function. Over time, the OHCA anticipates the InterQual® implementation will help to automate the PA processing further, thereby shortening the average review time.

The OHCA will complete implementation in phases. Total knee and hip arthroplasty surgeries, American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology codes 27447, 27130, and 27132, will be the first codes routed to InterQual®. All SoonerCare providers who request these codes will be part of this initial implementation phase.

Below is information for Phase I implementation:

- Phase I begins on January 8, 2018, and will run approximately two months.
- Provider training webinars will be provided in December and January. Please register at www.okhca.org/provider-training to participate.
- Supporting documentation must continue to accompany the PA request. The new question-and-answer format will help clarify which documentation is needed, potentially streamlining your efforts as well as ours. 
- Your internet browser must meet encryption standards to successfully use InterQual® through the SoonerCare Provider Portal. A Global Message from October 10, 2017 (Upcoming Change to the Medical Prior Authorization Request Process), offers more information regarding these requirements at www.okhca.org/global.
- The OHCA is always interested in your comments. They are especially welcome during this effort.
- The OHCA contact during this implementation phase is Natasha Kester. Should you have any questions or comments, please email her at Natasha.Kester@okhca.org.

If you have any questions, please contact the OHCA's Medical Authorization Unit at 1-800-522-0114.

Thank you in advance for your participation and for your continued service to our SoonerCare members.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Executive Officer