

SoonerCare FAX BLAST

SUBJECT: Pediatric Hospice Program

The Pediatric Hospice Program became effective on August 1, 2005, and offers palliative care to *SoonerCare* children up to age 21. A physician must order hospice care and certify that the child has a terminal illness with a life expectancy of less than six months. The family must elect hospice benefits in lieu of standard *SoonerCare* medical services designed to treat or cure an illness.

The pediatric hospice benefit requires prior authorization for two initial 90-day periods and an unlimited number of subsequent 60-day periods during the remainder of the patient's terminal lifetime. The prior authorization process requires the following documentation: an HCA-12A form completed by a *SoonerCare* contracted provider, a statement of certification (stating that the patient has a terminal illness, has a life expectancy of less than six months and requires hospice benefit for palliative and/or comfort care), and an Interdisciplinary Plan of Care. All required documentation must be signed by a physician or hospice medical director.

This is an **additional** benefit to the *SoonerCare* Program, medically necessary services for medical conditions completely unrelated to the terminal illness (for which hospice was elected) remain available to the patient if the child is eligible for such care. For further information, please refer to Policy & Rules/OHCA Rules/Chapter 30/Subchapter 5/Part 59 on the OHCA web site at www.okhca.org, or call the Care Management unit toll free at 1-877-252-6002.