

Health Services  
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

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**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** OMAP-IM-04-081

**Issue Date:** 08/10/04

**Topic:** Medical Benefits

**Subject:** Medical Director Letter to Physicians Regarding OHP Standard Benefits

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): DHS staff and others identified on the SPD, CAF, OHMAS and OMAP transmittal lists |

**Message:** The attached letter from the OMAP Medical Director regarding the reconfigured OHP Standard benefit package will be mailed to OMAP physicians. An overview of the changes to the OHP Standard benefit package will be included.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

August 10, 2004

Dear Clinician:

August 1, 2004, brought changes to the benefit package for those patients who have the Oregon Health Plan Standard Benefit Package (currently 55,000 patients, anticipated to drop to 24,000 by July 1, 2005). I have enclosed an overview of those changes.

As you can see from the overview, there are some treatments (e.g. therapies, home health) you may routinely recommend that are now the OHP Standard patient's responsibility for payment. Also, although your care to a patient in a hospital or surgery center is a covered benefit with the OHP Standard package, a hospitalization must be emergent/urgent and match with a list of diagnoses or it will be the patient's responsibility. The limited hospital benefit code list was developed over the past year by a group of representatives from the public, physicians, hospitals, health plans, mental health plans and the State. The list can be found on our Web site under supplemental information at: [www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/hospital/](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/hospital/).

As you might imagine, the limited OHP Standard benefit will create some challenges. As an example, even though the emergency surgery for a condition may be covered, the post-operative therapy that is often done after hospital discharge will be the OHP Standard patient's responsibility. We will continue to share ideas and work together to develop creative solutions in order to provide the best care possible under these circumstances.

These are challenging times for our patients and the medical system in general. Your continued care of Oregon Health Plan patients is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

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## Reconfiguration of the Standard Benefit Package

As directed by the 2003 Legislature under House Bill 2511, the OHP Standard benefit package is reconfigured to consist of the following core set of services<sup>1</sup> (overlaid by Oregon's Prioritized List of Health Services):

- physician services
- ambulance
- prescription drugs
- laboratory and x-ray services
- limited durable medical equipment and supplies
- outpatient mental health
- outpatient chemical dependency services
- emergency dental services.

Although not part of the core set of services, the Standard benefit package also includes:

- hospice
- limited hospital benefit. In brief, the limited hospital benefit will include:
  - (1) evaluation, lab, x-ray and other diagnostics to determine diagnosis (line zero on the prioritized list);
  - (2) hospital treatment for all emergency services;
  - (3) urgent conditions for which prompt treatment will prevent life threatening health deterioration;
  - (4) a subset of number three that will require prior authorization.

The following optional services are not included within the reconfigured Standard benefit package:

- therapy services (physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy)
- acupuncture (except for the treatment of chemical dependency)
- chiropractic services
- home health services / private duty nursing
- vision exams and materials\*
- hearing aids and exams for hearing aids\*
- non-ambulance medical transportation\*

\*Not previously covered under OHP Standard.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for program details.