



Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup>  
of Oklahoma

**Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup> of Oklahoma**  
777 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

## Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup> of Oklahoma

### Upcoming change to short stay payment process

Dear hospital provider partners,

## **Aetna Better Health is updating our payment process for short hospital stays to better align with national standards and reduce unnecessary costs.**

### **What's changing?**

Starting April 15, 2026, Aetna Better Health will include short- stay payment reviews in our observation post-service (retrospective) authorization reviews.

If a hospital stay is less than two midnights, it will be paid at the observation rate, unless it meets **one** of the following exceptions:

- The procedure is on the CMS 2025 Inpatient Only list (age 18+) or listed as pediatric inpatient-only in MCG<sup>®</sup> (under 18).
- The member was admitted to an intermediate or intensive care unit, including NICU, and the stay is medically necessary.
- The member received acute hospital care at home.
- The member passed away unexpectedly during the stay.
- The member left against medical advice from a medically necessary inpatient stay.
- The member was transferred from another inpatient facility with a total medically necessary stay longer than two midnights.
- The member elected hospice care instead of continued hospital treatment.

Stays longer than two midnights will continue to be paid at the DRG rate.

### **Why this matters:**

Oklahoma has one of the highest rates of short inpatient admissions compared to other markets. This change helps ensure appropriate payment and supports better care management.

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## Impact:

- Minimal impact to members – this change only affects provider reimbursement.
- Some impact to providers – short inpatient stays will be paid at the observation rate unless they meet the criteria above.

Thank you for your continued partnership in improving care for our members.

## Questions?

Contact the Provider Engagement team at: **1-844-365-4385** or by email at [ABHOKProviderEngagement@Aetna.com](mailto:ABHOKProviderEngagement@Aetna.com)

Sincerely,



Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup>  
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## Better health highlights

### Open enrollment is May 1–June 12, 2026

Open enrollment is coming soon. This is a key time for members to choose the coverage that fits their needs. If you have questions, reach out — we're here to support.

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### New universal roster now available for credentialing

Our updated roster template is ready to use. It makes credentialing easier across health plans and helps keep provider information current and accurate. Using this roster helps reduce delays and supports faster updates for your practice.

**Access the roster [here](#).**

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### AI/AN members can choose to opt in

Members who are American Indian or Alaskan Native can opt in to SoonerSelect and choose a health plan. If you serve AI/AN members, we can help answer questions and connect them to services that support their health and well-being.