Oklahoma

In recent years, the Oklahoma legislature introduced legislation to promote price transparency and cost containment. In 2019, the Legislature focused on surprise billing (HB 1053, HB 2441, SB 1011) and Right to Shop program (HB 2417/SB 218).

In the 2017-2018 legislative term, the state passed the Health Care Choice Act, which allows the state to enter into compacts with other states (approved by the legislature) so that health plans domiciled in those states could be sold to Oklahoma residents without having to obtain an Oklahoma certificate of authority. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma was the only carrier offering plans on the exchange in 2017 and continues to be the only carrier on the exchange in 2018. The Oklahoma legislation is intended to provide additional insurance alternatives in Oklahoma. The bill cannot, however, require insurers in other states to offer their plans for sale in Oklahoma, and it’s unclear whether insurers in other states would be willing or able to establish provider networks in Oklahoma.

In previous legislative sessions, Oklahoma introduced but did not pass a bill that would have promoted price transparency in the state. In addition, the Oklahoma State Department of Health’s Center for Health Innovation and Effectiveness is spearheading efforts to improve healthcare quality and reign in cost growth. Oklahoma was awarded a CMS State Innovation Model grant in December 2014, which aims to utilize multi-payer value-based payment models to bend the cost curve.

The state has a volunteer all-payer claims database (APCD). Approximately 1 million people’s claims histories are in this database, which accounts for about 25% of Oklahoma’s total population.