

Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4545 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Ste. 124
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 522-7300



ISSUE BRIEF *November 5, 2009*

In Re: Insure Oklahoma expansion

OKLAHOMA CITY – A recent news article featured a new Oklahoma law that went into effect Nov. 1 and expands the Insure Oklahoma program. The article failed to mention that the Oklahoma Health Care Authority will have to seek and receive federal approval before this expansion can become effective.

House Bill 2026 was passed last session. The bill includes amendatory language that authorizes the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to offer qualified high-deductible health plans with a health savings account through the Insure Oklahoma program. The employer and employee would still be required to meet the minimum qualifications of the program (e.g. employer size and income limitations).

Although we have been authorized by this law to expand Nov.1, we do not have these plans available yet through the Insure Oklahoma program. The agency must receive federal approval for this type of change to the program. Once approval is received, the agency will have to design and implement the program changes. All of these steps take time.

When the agency is able to present this plan option, we will make sure all agents, as well as the general public, are notified in a timely manner.

#30#