TITLE 810. OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
CHAPTER 15. MEDICAL SERVICES
RULE IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PERMANENT RULES

A. Brief description of the purpose of the rules:

The proposed rule amendments would modify procedures and standards governing medical matters over which the Commission has responsibility under the Administrative Workers Compensation Act, 85A O.S. §§ 1 et seq. The proposed amendments to the 2012 Workers' Compensation Fee Schedule include reimbursement for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and drug screen testing for chronic pain management, provides an appeals process for drugs excluded from the closed formulary, and increases the allowable advance payment for physician depositions.

B. Description of classes of persons who will be affected by the proposed rules:

The classes of persons to be affected by the proposed rules are workers' compensation system participants, including employees, employers, insurance carriers, attorneys and healthcare professionals who are subject to the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act.

C. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rules:

The classes of persons who will benefit are injured employees, employers, insurance carriers and healthcare professionals in the area of workers' compensation.

D. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rules:

A positive economic impact will result by controlling costs for participants in the workers' compensation system by the implementation of workers' compensation fee schedules to establish fair and reasonable charges for health care services and supplies.

E. Description of probable costs and benefits to the agency:

There are no probable costs associated with implementing these new rules.

F. Determination of economic impact on political subdivisions:

The proposed rules will not have an economic impact on political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rules.

G. Determination of adverse economic impact on small business:

The proposed rules will not have an adverse effect on small businesses as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

H. Explanation of measures to minimize compliance costs:

The proposed rules will not increase compliance costs. There are no less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods.

I. Determination of effect on public health, safety and environment:

There will be no effect on the public health, safety and environment.

J. Determination of any detrimental effect on public health, safety and environment:

There is no detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment from the non-implementation of these rules.

K. Date of Impact Statement Preparation: January 29, 2016.

L. Date of Impact Statement Modification: March 29, 2016.