



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oklahoma HMO shares coronavirus fraud awareness information**

*GlobalHealth remains fully operational to ensure members get the care they need*

**OKLAHOMA** – In light of the ongoing coronavirus situation in the state, GlobalHealth, an Oklahoma-based health insurance provider, is sharing coronavirus fraud awareness information, as well as business continuity updates, to help Oklahomans and members stay safe and protected.

“First and foremost, I want to reassure our members that GlobalHealth is fully operational and we have taken steps to ensure we operate business as usual,” said Scott Vaughn, GlobalHealth President and CEO. “In light of the recent non-essential business closure order from Gov. Kevin Stitt, and knowing Oklahomans rely on our insurance coverage during this time, our call centers are fully staffed during our normal business hours. We also are ensuring our essential employees are safe and follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations so we can effectively respond to our members.”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General recently issued a warning regarding public fraud schemes related to the novel coronavirus.

Scammers are offering COVID-19 tests to Medicare beneficiaries in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. However, the services are unapproved and illegitimate. Fraudsters are targeting beneficiaries in a number of ways, including telemarketing calls, social media platforms and door-to-door visits.

“These scammers are using the coronavirus pandemic to benefit themselves, and Medicare beneficiaries face potential harm,” Vaughn said. “The personal information collected can be used to fraudulently bill federal healthcare programs and commit medical identity theft. If Medicare or Medicaid denies the claim for an unapproved test, the beneficiary could be responsible for the cost.”

The following are ways Oklahoma Medicare beneficiaries can protect themselves:

- Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for their Medicare or Medicaid numbers.

- Be suspicious of any unexpected calls or visitors offering COVID-19 tests or supplies. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing or treatments on social media sites.
- A physician or other trusted healthcare provider should assess your condition and approve any requests for COVID-19 testing.
- If you suspect COVID-19 fraud, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline (866) 720-5721 or [disaster@leo.gov](mailto:disaster@leo.gov).

“Also, many members may have questions about their health coverage at this time,” Vaughn said. “We are committed to helping our members stay informed about COVID-19. We are closely monitoring the situation and following recommendations from the CDC and the state health department.”

Regarding member coverage, GlobalHealth does not require prior authorization and will not apply member cost shares for testing to diagnose COVID-19. For more information about health coverage, members should call the number on their member ID card.

### **About GlobalHealth**

GlobalHealth is changing health insurance in Oklahoma. As an industry leader, GlobalHealth is an Oklahoma-based health maintenance organization covering individuals in all 77 Oklahoma counties. Working proactively with its members, GlobalHealth engages a personalized management plan to address their specific needs and ensure the best possible health outcomes. GlobalHealth utilizes cutting-edge, predictive data technology as a foundation to deliver improved healthcare as part of its commitment to making health insurance more affordable. Its membership includes state, education and municipal employees, federal employees, and individuals who are eligible for Medicare. To learn more, visit [www.GlobalHealth.com](http://www.GlobalHealth.com).

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