**MEMORANDUM**

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| To: | Managed Care Program Oversight  Enrollment Resolution Services  Program Support and Utilization Review  Managed Care Organizations |
| from: | Office of Policy  Medicaid and CHIP Services |
| subject: | STAR Kids and STAR Health Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Billing Matrix Effective December 1, 2022 |

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| issuance date: | 06/01/2022 | HHSC: | 22-06-001 |
| effective date: | 12/01/2022 | | |

**Title: STAR Kids and STAR Health Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Billing Matrix Effective December 1, 2022**

**Background:**

In 2019, CMS directed HHSC to update the long-term services and supports (LTSS) billing to comply with the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) by changing community-based LTSS billing in STAR Kids and STAR Health from one hour to 15-minute billing units. This change required revisions to be made to the LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk.

HHSC shared draft revisions of the STAR Kids LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk with the managed care organizations (MCOs) in October 2021, March 2022, and discussed final changes in the May 18, 2022 meeting.

HHSC delayed the implementation date for the revised LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk to December 1, 2022. This new implementation date was coordinated with the HHSC Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) team and ensures MCOs adequate lead time to make appropriate system changes.

**Summary of Request or Key Details:**

HHSC comprehensively updated the STAR Kids LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk and incorporated NCCI-related revisions to be effective December 1, 2022. The updated matrix will be posted in the STAR Kids Handbook Policy Updates until December 1, 2022, at which time it will officially replace the LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk appendix.

For services that will be provided on or after December 1, 2022, MCOs must ensure necessary system changes are made to allow issuing updated service prior authorizations with new code and modifier combinations no later than October 17, 2022. After this date, prior authorizations for services to be rendered on or after December 1, 2022, using old codes will not be accepted. MCO system changes must be completed in time to process claims with new code and modifier combinations with dates of service on or after December 1, 2022.

Action(s):

* For prior authorizations and claims regarding services provided prior to December 1, 2022, MCOs must use the code and modifier combinations without the NCCI-related edits (published April 2022) in the STAR Kids Handbook, [Appendix III, LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/star-kids-handbook/appendix-iii-ltss-billing-matrix-crosswalk).
* If MCOs issued prior authorizations based on the March 2022 STAR Kids LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk containing modifiers and codes with an effective date of July 1, 2022, or later, they must reissue those prior authorizations with modifiers and codes from the STAR Kids Handbook, [Appendix III, LTSS Billing Matrix and Crosswalk](https://www.hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/star-kids-handbook/appendix-iii-ltss-billing-matrix-crosswalk) published April 2022.
* MCOs must make the necessary system changes to comply with the October 17, 2022, prior authorization deadline and the December 1, 2022, claims deadline described in the “Summary” section of this notice.

**Resources** (if any):

STAR Kids Handbook Policy Updates: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/star-kids-handbook/hhsc-policy-updates>

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