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STAR Kids SK-SAI Phase II Report & Next Steps

June 25, 2018

STAR Kids Assessment Tool

- In 2013, HHSC contracted with Texas A&M University (TAMU) Health Science Center to determine if a proper tool existed for use as a STAR Kids assessment tool, and if not, to build and test one.
- After research across 20 states and existing programs in Texas, HHSC and TAMU determined a new tool was needed to meet requirements outlined by S.B. 7.



STAR Kids Assessment Tool

The STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SK-SAI) was created and tested by TAMU through two major project phases.

- **Phase One (2013-2016):** Developed the SK-SAI and tested it. TAMU determined it was a scientifically valid and reliable instrument for use on the STAR Kids population prior to implementation.
- **Phase Two (2017):** Conducted further testing of the SK-SAI in a 'real-world' setting after STAR Kids implementation, made recommendations to optimize it.



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TAMU Report: Major Conclusions

- Based on conclusions from both Phase One and Phase Two, the SK-SAI is a **valid and reliable scientific instrument**.
- Areas for continued improvement included processes and training.



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TAMU Report: Major Conclusions

- Phase Two tested more than 400 items and sub-items, about half of all items on the SK-SAI.
 - 72% of all items and sub-items tested performed well
 - 85% of questions used for MDCP and CFC program eligibility (medical necessity) performed well
- TAMU identified several factors that may have contributed to differences in responses during reliability trial:
 - Assessment fatigue
 - Managed Care Organization (MCO) vs. TAMU assessors
 - Time between assessments



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HHSC Response

HHSC has taken steps to implement short-term recommendations, including:

- Conducted additional trainings for MCO assessors in April 2018
 - 2 Webinar Sessions, over 1200 service coordinators and assessors from all 10 STAR Kids MCOs
- Updating SK-SAI training materials to clarify items with lower reliability



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HHSC Next Steps

- HHSC is evaluating recommendations from TAMU Report, MCOs, stakeholders to optimize the SK-SAI.
- Goal is to optimize the SK-SAI by developing version 3.0, including revised skip patterns, triggers, and question wording, using existing version 2.06 as the foundation.
- Process will involve engagement with stakeholders in summer 2018.
- HHSC will determine implementation plan based on results of evaluation.



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