

# Utilization of PTOTST Services

## Pre and Post STAR Kids Implementation

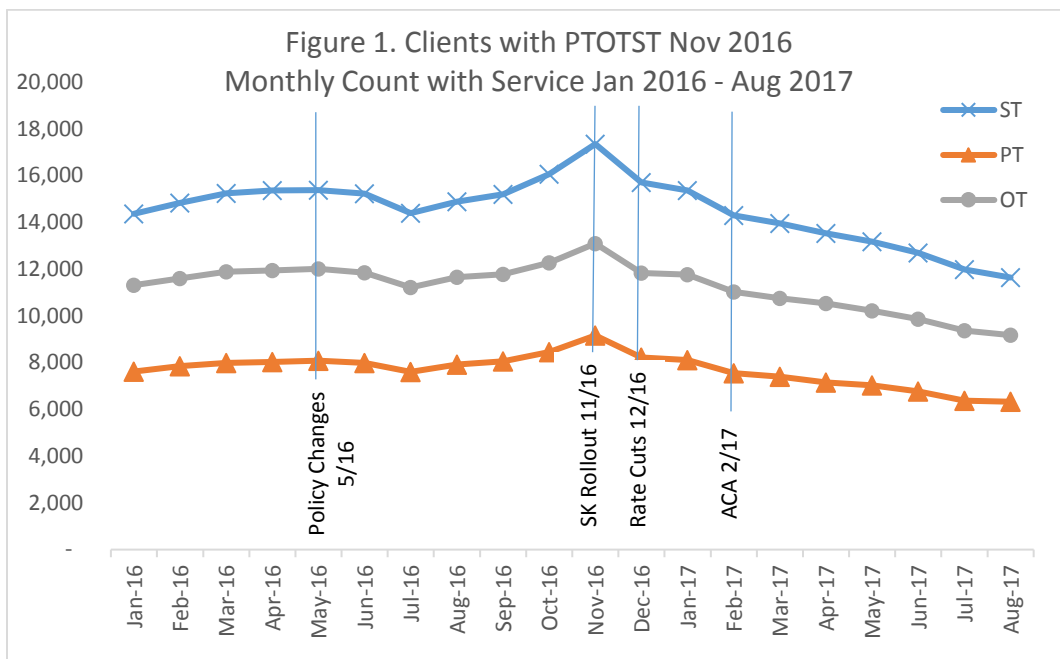
### Background

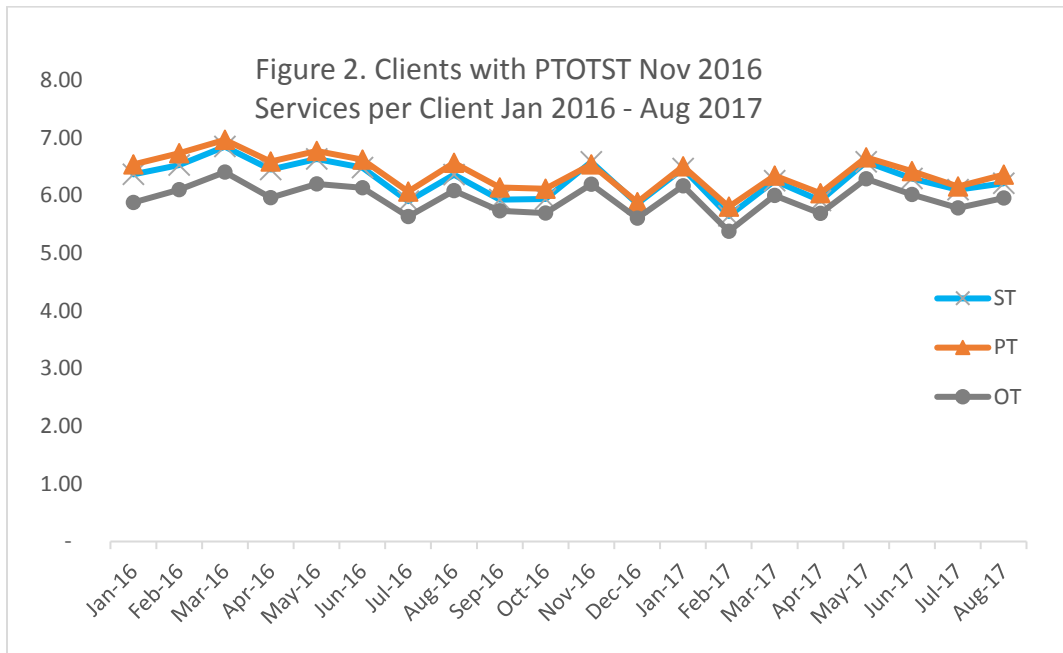
The Health and Human Services Commission’s (HHSC) Center for Analytics and Decision Support (CADS) examined trends in the utilization of Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy (PTOTST) among clients in STAR Kids before and after the program implementation in November 2016. The methodology involved identifying clients enrolled in STAR Kids in November 2016 and examining 1) historical utilization back to January 2016, with a particular focus on whether they received services in each month between November 2016 and August 2017 (‘number of clients’), and 2) the average number of services received per client (‘number of services per client’) during that same time period. The cohort methodology was chosen in order to examine utilization over time for a stable group of clients known to be utilizing services at the inception of the STAR Kids program. Findings are summarized below.

### Summary of Findings

In November 2016, 23,743 clients in STAR Kids received a therapy service. Utilization patterns for the following 10 months were very similar for all three types of therapies:

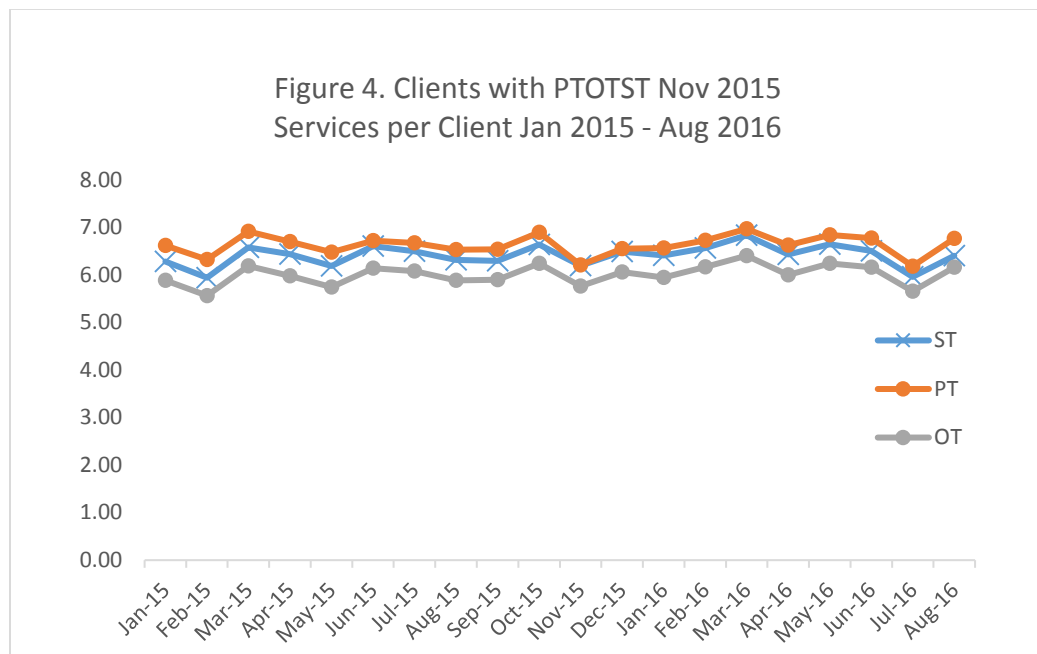
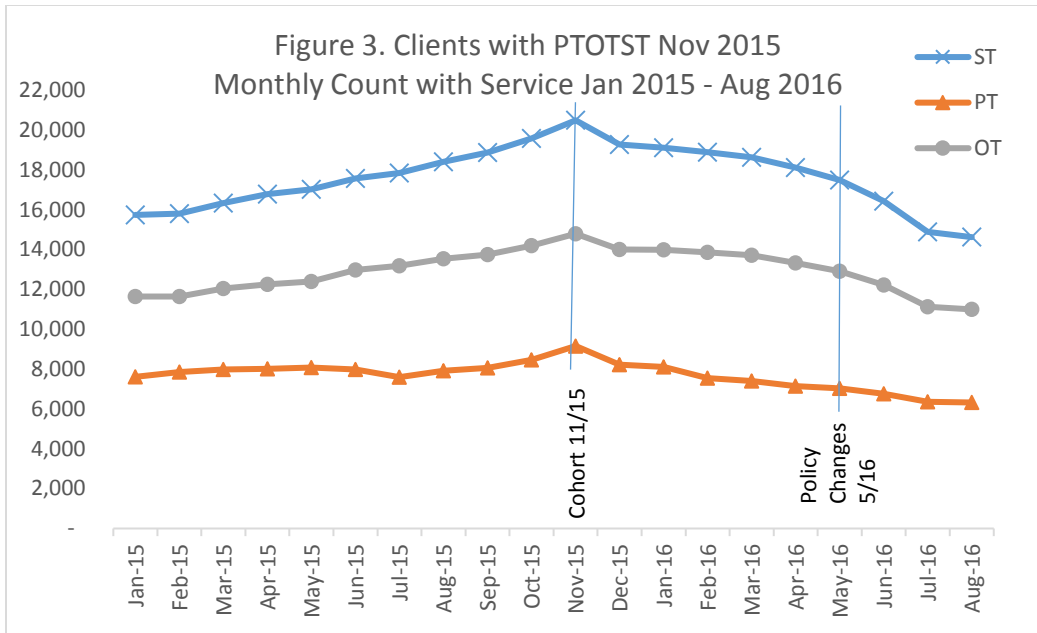
- From November 2016 to August 2017, the monthly number of clients who received speech therapy decreased 33%, from 17,347 to 11,637. Similarly, the number of clients who received physical therapy decreased 31% (9,159 to 6,325) and the number of clients who received occupational therapy decreased 30% (13,092 to 9,174). (See Figure 1).
- Meanwhile, the number of services per client who received speech therapy remained relatively stable, at an average of 6.3 per client per month. The number of services per client who received physical or occupational therapy remained stable as well (6.4 and 5.9 per client per month, respectively). (See Figure 2).





Several significant program changes occurred in SFY16 and SFY17: policy changes in May 2016, STAR Kids implementation in November 2016, provider rate decreases in December 2016, and ACA reenrollment in February 2017. Multiple changes make it difficult to isolate how much one event alone may have impacted the number of clients receiving a therapy service. Moreover, it is unclear if the decrease in clients receiving services merely tracks attrition in the course of Medicaid therapy unrelated to any program changes. To test this idea, we conducted an additional analysis, this time looking at the utilization pattern of a cohort of 27,173 Fee for Service (FFS) clients <21 years old who received a PTOTST service a year earlier, in November 2015.

- Similar to the STAR Kids cohort studied in the previous year, from November 2015 to August 2016, the monthly number of FFS clients <21 years old who received speech therapy decreased 29%, from 20,489 to 14,624. Similarly, the number of clients who received physical therapy decreased 30% (10,410 to 7,278) and the number of clients who received occupational therapy decreased 26% (14,794 to 10,998). (See Figure 3). Like the year before, the number of services per client remained relatively stable (See Figure 4).
- That the utilization trend of the two cohorts a year apart is similar suggests that clients discontinue services after a spell of treatment, regardless of the program or changes that occur.



### Limitations

Several limitations of these analyses should be noted.

- Although the cohort methodology allows us to examine changes in utilization for a stable group of clients who are known to receive services, it doesn't allow us to examine the number of new clients who are entering the STAR Kids program each month or the number of services these clients receive.
- Other factors (such as changes in state and federal policies, obstacles associated with the rollout of any new program, seasonality in utilization and enrollment, and rate changes) may all contribute to changes in utilization patterns over time.

### Counts of Individuals with MDCP SK-SAI Reassessments by Status

Assessment Status/Eligibility Type	Month form submitted																			Grand Total	Percentage of Individuals with Reassessment in Status	
	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018			
APPROVED	1	9	20	43	174	363	521	589	510	495	385	322	317	398	430	428	449	403	390	4929	4713	88%
Eligibility not found	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
MAO	1	5	12	25	104	226	297	348	334	311	247	191	177	268	264	267	283	245	239	3051	2947	
SSI	0	4	8	18	70	137	224	241	176	184	138	131	139	130	166	161	166	158	151	1877	1765	
DENIED	0	0	0	1	7	25	31	36	35	37	30	26	15	23	17	8	6	0	0	296	232	4%
MAO	0	0	0	1	6	16	20	21	20	27	21	21	7	15	8	6	2	0	0	191	148	
SSI	0	0	0	0	1	9	11	15	15	10	9	5	8	8	9	2	4	0	0	105	84	
DENIED & MAY REQEUST FAIR HEARING	0	1	1	10	19	37	54	65	49	40	30	26	28	37	35	24	25	16	3	488	372	7%
MAO	0	0	1	5	10	24	35	34	27	21	18	15	24	20	22	16	14	11	3	294	222	
SSI	0	1	0	5	9	13	19	31	22	19	12	11	4	17	13	8	11	5	0	194	150	
IN PROCESS	3	1	8	13	7	16	51	28	11	27	14	9	6	16	3	5	6	6	15	219	133	2%
Eligibility not found	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
MAO	3	1	1	5	3	10	25	13	7	21	8	4	4	10	2	4	2	3	6	119	78	
SSI	0	0	7	8	4	6	26	15	4	6	6	5	2	6	1	1	3	3	9	99	54	
PENDING	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	4	1	5	19	13	17	11	0	77	75	1%
MAO	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	10	11	11	10	0	53	51	
SSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	9	2	6	1	0	24	24	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>5699</b>	<b>5377</b>	

**Note on Unduplicated Counts:**

Grand totals are unduplicated. Status amounts (Approved, Denied, Denied & May Request Fair Hearing, In Process, Pending) may have multiple SKSAI's submitted for an individual. Example: March 2018, Approved 449 + Denied 6 + Denied & May Reqeust Fair Hearing 25 + In Process 6 + Pending 17 = 503. However, the unduplicated total of individuals with reassessments for that month is 500. 3 individuals have both an Approved and In Process assessments for that month. These individuals are counted once in the unduplicated total.

**Definitions:**

Approved: Individuals with assessments that were approved by TMHP or as a result of fair hearings.

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Eligibility not found: Individuals for whom eligibility was not yet established; at the time of the data run, the eligibility data was not updated to reflect eligibility status; or Medicaid eligibility was later terminated for another reason retroactively.

**Other Notes:**

An individual is counted in a given month if they had an MDCP SK-SAI submitted during that month.

SK-SAIs with an indication that both MN and RUG calculations are required are considered MDCP assessments.

Medicaid Type is based on TIERS data as of May 15, 2018.

Data sources: TMHP Provider Portal, HHSC Service Authorization System, TIERS; Prepared by HHSC Center for Analytics and Decision Support

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# Summary of STAR Kids Reassessment Data

## Background

The STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SK-SAI) has two main functions: 1) service planning (which includes setting member goals and potential service needs, including therapies and nursing) for all STAR Kids members and 2) medical necessity (MN) determination for the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) and Community First Choice (CFC). The Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) must complete the SK-SAI after a member enrolls with the MCO, and reassessments must be completed annually thereafter. The Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) makes MN determinations based on the member's SK-SAI submitted by the MCO.

## Reassessments

*Data are for June 2017-May 2018.*

- There are 5,377 unduplicated individuals with MDCP SK-SAI reassessments.
- The number of individuals with reassessments in each status category are:
  - 4,713 individuals have approved reassessments (88%).
  - 232 individuals have denied reassessments (4%).
  - 372 individuals have denied reassessments and may request a fair hearing (7%). These individuals are, at the time of the data, either within the 10-day timeline for requesting continuation of benefits and a fair hearing, or past the 10-day deadline and have not requested a fair hearing.
  - 133 individuals have their reassessments being processed at TMHP (2%).
  - 75 individuals are pending a fair hearing (1%). Individuals may choose to continue to receive benefits pending the outcome of the fair hearing if they request a fair hearing within 10 days of receiving the denial letter.
  - Because some individuals have multiple assessments with different statuses, the sum of individuals in each status category is greater than the unduplicated total of individuals and the percentages add up to more than 100%.
- During the timeframe of June 2017-May 2018 the data shows overall minimal change. There is a slight increase in approved reassessments and a slight decrease in denied reassessments, in process, and pending fair hearing statuses.

# Summary of STAR Kids Reassessment Data

## Data Methodology & Considerations

- These data were prepared by the HHSC Center for Analytics and Decision Support (CADS). Previously HHSC used a manual, more resource-intensive process to provide the data. Using CADS to prepare the data creates a more streamlined and sustainable process.
- The systems and methodologies used by HHSC to provide the above data are different from those used by DADS, which may create issues with comparing current and historical data.
  - HHSC understands that DADS calculated a denial rate that represented final MN denials as a percentage of total MDCP enrollment. DADS used MDCP terminations resulting from MN denials using a process and system not being used for STAR Kids.
  - HHSC is providing point-in-time data on cases that are in process and may not have a final determination yet. As a result, HHSC summarized data from June 2017 through May 2018 because it may be more reliable and complete than monthly data.
- The STAR Kids program uses a different assessment tool than the Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MNLOC) used by DADS for MDCP MN determinations. The SK-SAI was designed specifically for the STAR Kids program and child populations. The MNLOC assessment tool used by DADS for MDCP MN determinations was not specific to children.
- The data count the number of individuals who received an MDCP SK-SAI reassessment in the month the reassessment was submitted to TMHP. The monthly data on reassessment statuses (approved, denied, pending, etc.) are point-in-time and change as decisions are made through the MN determination and fair hearings processes.
- There were no (or very minimal) denials prior to April 2017 because HHSC extended individual service plans (ISPs) for all MDCP recipients transitioned to STAR Kids on November 1, 2016 whose reassessment would have been due November 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017. These individuals did not need a MDCP MN reassessment until 2018.