



# **Stakeholder Update: COVID 19**

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**Medicaid and CHIP Services  
April 16, 2020**



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# COVID-19 Response

## Where we are:

- Rapidly changing situation
- Response is iterative
- Review what's implemented to date

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### *Communication Channels*

#### **Clients**

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- Health plan channels and providers

#### **Providers**

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- [COVID section on TMHP site](#)
- Health plan channels

+ Weekly calls

Submit questions to:

[Medicaid\\_COVID\\_Questions@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhsc.state.tx.us)



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# Stakeholder Updates

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- **Access & Eligibility Services Update**
- **Regulatory Services Update**



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# Medicaid Updates

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## Remote Delivery of PT/OT/ST

- Texas licensure rules for providers of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy address the provision of telehealth via two-way audio/video platforms.
- HHSC issued guidance to MCOs and providers allowing for reimbursement when these services are delivered remotely within the parameters outlined by each discipline and when clinically appropriate.



# Medicaid Updates - 2

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## Remote Delivery of PT/OT/ST (cont.)

- Clinical evaluations for the provision of new complex rehabilitation technology require the physical presence of the provider and should not be delivered via telehealth unless exceptional medical circumstances exist.
- Therapy assistants may provide telehealth and receive supervision within limits outlined in each discipline's rules.
- HHSC does not allow the use of telephone-only delivery of these therapies.



# Medicaid Updates - 3

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## **Remote delivery of SHARS services.**

- Medicaid services provided by school districts in Texas to Medicaid-eligible students are known as School Health and Related Services (SHARS).



# Medicaid Updates - 4

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## Remote delivery of SHARS services (cont.)

- HHSC will allow reimbursement for the following SHARS services to be delivered via telemedicine or telehealth when school districts have moved to virtual learning or any other education model outside of the traditional school-based location:
  - Audiology services
  - Counseling services (psychologist or master's level clinician delivered)
  - Occupational therapy
  - Physician services
  - Physical therapy
  - Speech therapy



# Medicaid Updates - 5

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## Remote delivery CLASS Therapies

- The following CLASS professional and specialized therapy services may be provided via telehealth through April 30:
  - Physical therapy
  - Occupational therapy
  - Speech and language pathology
  - Recreational therapy
  - Music therapy
  - Behavioral support
  - Dietary services
  - Cognitive rehabilitation therapy





# Medicaid Updates - 6

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## **Nursing facility minimum data set authorization extensions**

- HHSC is extending nursing facility minimum data set (MDS) assessment authorizations expiring through the end of April 2020 for 90 days or until the MDS is completed.





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# Thank You!

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**Next update:  
April 23, 2020**