



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
April 30, 2020**



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COVID-19 Response

Where we are:

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

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



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Medicaid Updates

1115 Waiver Submission

- HHSC submitted an 1115 waiver request on April 22.
- Request includes:
 - Extending service authorizations, medical necessity/level of care determinations, and individual service plans.
 - Extending appeal and fair hearing timeframes.
 - Allowing for remote delivery of state plan and 1115 services required to be delivered face-to-face.



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1115 Waiver Submission (cont.)

- Request also includes:
 - Waiving durable medical equipment signature requirements for physicians, providers, and Medicaid recipients.
 - Allowing reimbursement to pharmacies for administering flu vaccines, long acting antipsychotics, and drugs used to treat substance use disorder or opioid dependency.
 - Suspending interest list releases for STAR+PLUS HCBS when face-to-face assessments have not yet been completed.
 - Allowing youth aging out of STAR Kids to stay in STAR Kids rather than transitioning to STAR+PLUS.



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Appendix K to 1915(c) Waiver Submissions

- HHSC submitted Appendix K requests for each 1915(c) waiver on April 28.
- Requests include:
 - Extensions for reassessments and reevaluations of individuals who are enrolled in the waiver programs.
 - Extending appeal and fair hearing timeframes.
 - Allowing for remote delivery of certain waiver services and orientations for financial management services agencies.



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Appendix K to 1915(c) Waiver Submissions (cont.)

- Requests also include:
 - Waiving HCBS settings requirements that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time to minimize the spread of COVID-19.
 - Allowances for HCS residence requirements, such as allowing 4-person residences to serve up to 6 people.
 - Allowing youth aging out of STAR Kids to stay in STAR Kids rather than transitioning to STAR+PLUS.
 - Requesting suspension of interest list releases in certain situations.





Stakeholder Updates

- **Regulatory Services Update**



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HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Announcement

- HRSA announced on April 22 the launch of a new COVID-19 Uninsured Program to support reimbursement to health care providers and facilities for testing and treatment of the uninsured.
 - Program will provide claims reimbursement to health care providers generally at Medicare rates for testing uninsured individuals for COVID-19 and treating uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis.
 - Includes testing and treatment provided on or after February 4, 2020.
- Providers can learn more about the program at www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim.





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Thank You!

**Next update:
May 7, 2020**