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)
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.
Medicaid Updates-2

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.
Medicaid Updates - 3

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.
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
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.
Thank You!

Next update:
May 7, 2020