

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM TAS/PRE-ENROLLMENT MHM WEBINAR

Q: Will HCS Program Providers be able to check for prior usage of TAS?

A: As of November 15, 2015, HCS Program Providers and Service Coordinators will not be able to check to see if an individual has previously received TAS. DADS will review an individual's history to determine if they have previously received TAS after submission of Form 8604 TAS Assessment and Authorization.

Q: I have a contract to provide TAS in accordance with Chapter 49 and not an HCS contract. Am I eligible to provide Minor Home Modifications?

A: No. HCS program providers are the only DADS contractors who can provide Minor Home Modifications in the HCS program, which includes facilitating the MHM process in accordance with the HCS program billing guidelines Section 6200 but not actually performing the physical adaptations to the residence. Providers who hold a contract with DADS to provide TAS are only eligible to provide TAS.

Q: Is the TAS service fee a lifetime amount or does it restart when they switch programs?

A: TAS is only eligible to be used once in an individual's lifetime, regardless of the amount that is used.

Q: Are Medicare/Medicaid denials required when trying to access funds to facilitate a MHM through this process?

A: No. Medicare/Medicaid denials are not part of the required process to obtain a MHM.

Q: How long is the TAS approval time for review from DADS?

A: There is no time table for approval of TAS by DADS. However, DADS plans to make TAS approvals a priority.

Q: Is the service coordinator sending TAS and Pre-enrollment MHM forms in or is the relocation specialist sending these forms in during the enrollment process? Who determines the assessment?

A: The service coordinator is responsible for sending Form 8604 TAS Assessment and Authorization and 8611 Pre-enrollment MHM Authorization Request. Assessments are required for MHM in accordance with Section 6200 of the Billing and Payment Guidelines found at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/hcsbg/6000/6000.htm#sec6200>.

Q: If the individual does not choose the program provider that has provided the TAS or Pre-enrollment MHM, is that program provider eligible to receive reimbursement?

A: After Form 8604 or Form 8611 has been authorized by DADS this guarantees that the program provider will be reimbursed even if the individual does not enroll with the program provider that has provided TAS or the pre-enrollment MHM. If the individual does not enroll with an HCS program provider within 30 days of their enrollment date, that provider can submit Form 8612 to DADS and receive reimbursement for services provided.

Q: Is TAS used after pre-enrollment MHM has been used?

A: TAS and pre-enrollment MHM are separate services. The use of TAS and Pre-enrollment MHM is based on the individual's need. There is no requirement that TAS and pre-enrollment MHM be used at the same time. TAS and Pre-enrollment MHM can be used in accordance with TAC and the HCS Billing Guidelines.

Q: Do you need DADS authorization via the form which goes into effect Nov. 15th?

A: TAS must be prior authorized by DADS on Form 8604 found at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/8604/>. Pre-enrollment MHM must be prior authorized on Form 8611 found at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/8611/>. Both are available for HCS enrollments dated November 15, 2015, or later.

Q: Are there restrictions for payment toward rental and utility deposits? For example, for a minor child age 16 transitioning from a NF whose family is moving into a new home at the same time to better accommodate for child living there, can the family use TAS assistance toward paying rent, deposit and utility deposit.

A: If the applicant will be living in a family home, TAS may be used to assist with security or utility deposits, but not rent.

Q: For PMHM, will the provider be expected to have the PT or OT assessment completed prior to the DADS authorization of 8611? If so, how will the provider be paid if the 8611 is not approved?

A: Pre-enrollment MHM must be procured using the same process outlined in the Billing Guidelines for minor home modifications after enrollment, with the exception of submission of form 8611 to DADS. The pre-enrollment MHM assessment is part of the documentation required for submission of the 8611 so it must be completed first. If form 8611 is not approved the assessment should still be included on the enrollment IPC so the HCS provider will be eligible to bill and be reimbursed for the OT or PT assessment. The HCS program provider can fill out form 8612 to receive reimbursement for OT or PT assessments when an individual does not enroll into HCS.

Q: For Diversion slots from NF or ICF can the consumer use TAS?

A: Someone enrolling with a diversion slot was never admitted to an institutional placement so these applicants would not be eligible for TAS or pre-enrollment MHM.

Q: Can TAS be utilized for TxHmL or is it only for HCS?

A: TAS is not available in TxHML. This webinar addresses TAS and pre-enrollment MHM in HCS only.

Q: Can an individual who just moved into HCS on October 16th be eligible for the \$1000 r is this only for enrollments after Nov. 15th?

A: Individuals who enrolled in HCS prior to November 15, 2015, are not eligible to receive TAS or pre-enrollment MHM.

Q: Is this webinar being recorded and going to be available later?

A: Yes. The webinar is recorded and posted to the HCS Provider Resources page of the DADS website found at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/HCS/index.cfm>.

Q: Is it true that DADS has 2 days to respond to all of our fax submissions?

A: DADS Program Enrollment/Utilization Review asks that you allow two business days to respond to messages left on their message line. Response time to fax submissions varies according to internal policy.

Q: What are the TAS service provider qualifications?

A: A provider of TAS must either be contracted with DADS to provide TAS or be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, not be related to the applicant, not be the applicant's LAR, not live with the applicant, and be capable of providing TAS in accordance with TAC.

Q: Is it correct that the individual receives \$1000.00 for their lifetime if transitioning into a group home?

A: Yes. For someone moving into a 24-hour residential setting, the lifetime benefit for TAS is \$1,000 for the purchase of personal items only (not for general household use).

Q: If the Pre Enrollment MHM Assessment is completed by one provider, and the consumer changes their mind and goes with another provider, will DADS approve for a new Pre Enrollment MHM assessment?

A: An MHM assessment is valid for one year so would not need to be redone. The same assessment could still be used to request a pre-enrollment MHM with a different HCS provider.

Q: Is form 8611 listed somewhere special? I don't see it listed on the DADS forms website.

A: Form 8611 is posted to the DADS forms site at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/8611/>.

Q: Once the need for MHM is identified, who will be responsible for the MHM assessment? Will we need to authorize PT or OT, for example, for a modification?

A: The HCS provider will be responsible for obtaining the MHM assessment for a pre-enrollment MHM. The assessment will be authorized on the initial IPC as PMHMA.

Q: How would you be able to bill for PT or OT if the consumer does not end up enrolling with you as a provider?

A: Any pre-enrollment service provided by an HCS provider with which the applicant does not enroll may be reimbursed through a request on Form 8612.

Q: I work relocation through the MFP. Is this strictly for HCS or is TAS is now available for moves to Assisted Living/Group Homes?

A: This webinar only deals with TAS services in the HCS program. Please see the guidelines for the specific program you are working with for information on whether it is provided in that program.

Q: Relocation Specialists offer similar services to individuals leaving an NF. Do we offer TAS services or the Relocation Specialist services or both?

A: If the individual is enrolling in HCS directly from an NF, they are eligible for both services.

Q: For clients enrolling into HCS from another waiver program with MHM available as a service, does the MHM limit reset?

A: Yes. MHM funds used in other programs do not count against the \$7,500 limit for HCS.

Q: What is the benefit of doing a pre enrollment versus waiting until they are enrolled in HCS?

A: If an applicant needs immediate use of the modification, for example a wheelchair ramp or roll-in shower, it would be advisable to have it installed before they move into a home.

Q: If I have MHM on an IPC now for grab bars that cost around \$200, do I need to go through the process presented in this webinar?

A: No. This process applies to applicants in pre-enrollment status only.

Q: Will there be a form that the OT/PT has to fill out? What should the letter have concerning a home modification?

A: Although there is no established form for MHM assessments, they are required to have certain information. An MHM assessment must have a written narrative including information about the individual's diagnoses, the conditions related to those diagnoses, how those conditions adversely affect their abilities to perform activities of daily living, and how the proposed modifications will resolve those issues.

Q: Can you give examples of a GRO?

A: A GRO is a child care facility regulated by DFPS.

Q: How do you become a provider for MHM?

A: Any HCS provider can provide MHM but the actual modification must be installed by a licensed contractor.

Q: What is a TAS contractor?

A: A TAS contractor is an individual or entity holding a contract with DADS to provide TAS.

Q: Can a licensed and certified home health agency be able to provide these services?

A: Pre-enrollment MHM for HCS can only be provided by an individual or entity with an HCS contract. TAS for HCS may only be provided by an HCS contractor or a TAS contractor.

Q: Where does the referral come from, the NF or direct from the community?

A: To be eligible for TAS, applicants must be enrolling directly from an NF, ICF/IID, or GRO. The LIDDA for their catchment area will coordinate all enrollment activities and contact selected HCS providers.

Q: Where can I find Form 8612?

A: Form 8612 can be found at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/8612/>.

Q: If someone is a host home/companion care provider, will they be able to be the service provider for TAS?

A: No. A TAS service provider may not live with the applicant.

Q: Do you have a list of the TAS contractors that you can provide to us?

A: Lists of TAS providers are not maintained at DADS state office. For a list please make a request at the DADS regional office serving your area of the state.

Q: Do TAS and MHM pre-enrollment apply for individuals leaving an SSLC as well?

A: Applicants enrolling in HCS directly from an ICF/IID, including all state supported living centers, may be eligible to receive TAS and pre-enrollment MHM.

Q: If an individual needs a hooyer lift prior to being discharged from a nursing home, does that responsibility fall on the nursing home or the provider?

A: A portable lift is an adaptive aid item typically covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. It would be the responsibility of the HCS program provider to obtain a lift from a DME vendor through the individual's medical card if the individual needs one available when they move into an HCS home.

Q: Will these changes be applied to Money Follows the Person program?

A: Money Follows the Person is a separate program. As long as an HCS applicant meets the separate qualifications for both MFP and TAS, they can receive benefits from both.