

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E. 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

May 3, 2022

Ms. Stephanie Stephens
State Medicaid Director
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Mail Code: H100
Post Office Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Texas State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0005

Dear Ms. Stephens:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) TX SPA 22-0005. This amendment proposes to implement changes to state law meant to further the use of telemedicine and telehealth by allowing the option to receive certain services using an audio-only platform.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations. This letter is to inform you that TX Medicaid SPA 22-0005 was approved on May 3, 2022, with an effective date of February 1, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Ford Blunt at 214-767-6381 or via email at Ford.Blunt@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

James G. Scott, Director
Division of Program Operations

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER
2 2 0 0 0 5

2. STATE
T X

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (Medicaid)

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE
02/01/2022

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

Title XIX of the SSA

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY **2023** \$ **0**
b. FFY **2024** \$ **0**

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

**Appendix 1 to Attachment 3.1- A, page 9
Appendix 1 to Attachment 3.1-B, page 9**

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN
SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

**Appendix 1 to Attachment 3.1- A, page 9 (TN 13-14)
Appendix 1 to Attachment 3.1- B, page 9 (TN 13-14)**

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) proposes amendments to the Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act to implement changes to state law meant to further the use of telemedicine and telehealth by allowing the option to receive certain services using an audio-only platform.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)

- GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: Sent to Governor's Office this date. Comments, if any, will be forwarded upon receipt.

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

**Stephanie
Stephens**

Digitally signed by
Stephanie Stephens
Date: 2022.03.24
10:11:20 -05'00'

15. RETURN TO

**Stephanie Stephens
State Medicaid Director
Post Office Box 13247, MC: H-100
Austin, Texas 78711**

12. TYPED NAME

Stephanie Stephens

13. TITLE

State Medicaid Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED

March 24, 2022

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED

March 24, 2022

17. DATE APPROVED

May 3, 2022

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

February 1, 2022

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

James G. Scott

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

5. Physicians' and Dentists' Services.

- a. Physicians' Services. Services by or under the personal supervision of a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy are covered by the Texas Medical Assistance Program as specified in 42 CFR §440.50.

(1) Telemedicine

Services provided via telemedicine are a benefit of the Texas Medicaid Program. Telemedicine is defined as the practice of health care delivery by a provider who is located at a site other than the site where the patient is located for the purposes of evaluation, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment that requires the use of advanced telecommunications technology. Chart reviews, electronic mail messages, and facsimile transmissions are not considered telemedicine.

The distant site provider uses telemedicine to provide a service to the client at the patient site. Qualifying distant site providers are reimbursed in accordance with the standard Medicaid reimbursement methodology. Qualifying patient sites are reimbursed a facility fee.

(2) Optometrists' Services

Physician services include services of the type which an optometrist is also legally authorized to perform and such services are reimbursed whether furnished by a physician or an optometrist.

Diagnostic and treatment services provided by an optometrist are covered by the Texas Medical Assistance Program if the services are (1) within the optometrist's scope of practice, as defined by state law and (2) reasonable and medically necessary as determined by the single state agency or its designee.

- b. Dentists' Services. Subject to the specifications, conditions and limitations established by the single state agency, services by a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine (Dentists' services) are covered by the Texas Medical Assistance Program if the services (1) are within the dentist scope of practice, as defined by law; and (2) would be covered by the Texas Medical Assistance Program when they are provided by a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.).

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