



ICF/IID Bed Hold Webinar, 2/5/2021, Questions and Answers

March 3, 2021

1. Leave taken from March 19, 2020 to October 23, 2020? Is this the applicable period?

Answer: The applicable period is March 20, 2020 to October 23, 2020.

2. Thank you for helping providers to be able to collect payment for this period. These processes are very cumbersome. Is it possible for you to create a one-page outline or step by step process for doing these steps?

Answer: [IL 21-05](#) with attached examples is intended to be a step by step guide for entering the COVID-19 therapeutic leave. Provider Claims Services is a resource for any additional assistance needed.

3. Are there plans for funds to increase DSP pay during the pandemic (hazard pay)?

Answer: The 90 days of additional COVID-19 therapeutic leave is what is approved at this time.

4. What if provider relief funds were received after the October period. Is the provider expected to account for those funds in just the March - May time frame, account for the those equally through October?

Answer: The attestation only applies to the March 20, 2020 to October 23, 2020 period when additional COVID-19 therapeutic leave is claimed.

5. What if you entered the COVID leave movement under the AX code? Do you have to re-enter them?

Answer: The AX only allows for payment the day of absence; all other days are covered by a hold, so no payment is made. If a provider wants to be paid for the days the individual was out on AX due to COVID, the IMTs must be backed out and ASA entered to replace of the AX.

6. Related to removing and entering passes: Do providers also need to include the vendor number and last 4 digits of the DLN for the pass being requested to change? Also, will the type of pass need to be indicated if there are

multiple passes entered on the same date for the consumer? example - there is a return pass and a leave pass on the same date.

Answer: The information is outlined in IL 2021-05 and includes Client Name, Medicaid ID, CARE ID, Movement Type and Date. If a Provider wants to include additional information, that would be fine.

7. The increase in ACRE as of Sept 1, 2020 will increase a provider's general revenue over the revenue period listed as the reference period for the last quarter of COVID leave payments, however that rate increase may not cover the lack of revenue created by the unbillable days in Sept and Oct due to COVID leave. Does this mean that the provider is not eligible for the retainer payment for this period because they don't have a 25% decrease in revenue?

Answer: The revenue comparison does not exclude any forms of revenue at this time. HHSC is reviewing provider feedback and questions on the revenue requirement and will update providers if any changes are made.

8. The problem with only considering the revenue stream is that it does not reflect the increased expenses of the provider. We have had so many additional expenses during this time that increased revenue isn't a reflection of idea of increased profit

Answer: HHSC is reviewing provider feedback and questions on the revenue requirement and will update providers if any changes are made.

9. Does HHSC plan to use COVID-19 therapeutic leaves in 2021?

Answer: HHSC is not extending past the March 20, 2020 to October 23, 2020 timeframe at this time. If this changes, HHSC will provide additional guidance to providers.

10. On the [1598](#) form. Can you confirm "Provider Agreement No. (may be for only one agreement):"

Answer: The provider agreement number is the contract number associated with a specific business entity and ICF license. Each attestation is for just one contract/provider number. Some providers may have more than one contract and will need to complete a separate attestation form for each.

11. Do we complete one for each client and we number these in chronological order?

Answer: No, one attestation per contract is required. Leave data entered into the TMHP Long-term Care Portal will be used to track COVID-19 leave days submitted by the provider for each person. After the attestation is submitted, the provider follows instructions in IL 2021-05.

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12. I'm still a little confused over the revenue attestation portion. First, it was stated that if a provider received funds for the Provider Relief Fund, the provider would still qualify. However, the next slide stated if revenue for specific quarters in 2020 was higher than Dec 2019 - Feb 2020, then said provider would not qualify. Any provider that received funds from the provider relief fund has automatically received MORE than the comparison quarter. So, a provider does or does not qualify?

Answer: Provider Relief Funds counts as revenue and if that combined with providers billing for ICF/IID services in a particular pandemic quarter exceeds revenue the provider received in a non-pandemic quarter, then under the current rules, the provider cannot request additional COVID-19 therapeutic leave days.

13. Do we have to back out all other leaves prior to billing for ASA Code days?

Answer: All IMTs (Absences and Returns) submitted for dates after the first date a Provider wants to use ASA must be backed out. All submissions of new IMTs must be completed prior to billing. Questions can always be directed to Provider Claims staff.

14. For example a client was out from March 20-June 30 and then returned 7/1/2020 but has since went home from 3 days leaves in subsequent months.

Answer: The provider can bill the 90 days of COVID-19 therapeutic leave using the ASA code for absences occurring from March 20th to June 30th. If the provider entered leave for July absences, that leave would have to be backed out of the system in order to bill COVID-19 therapeutic leave for March through June.

15. If I was paid for the first 13 days of leave and I back out the forms won't I need to rebill the 13 days along with the additional days and then SAS will adjust from what was already paid?

Answer: Dates of service already billed and paid will not need to be re-billed as long as backing out and resubmission of IMTs occurs within the same week.

16. So if the leave has already been put in and not paid, are we supposed to enter it again?

Answer: HHSC assumes this is not referring to ASA because this absence type was not previously authorized for COVID use. After a provider determines which dates are applicable for use of ASA by an individual, all IMTs, with effective dates after that date, must be backed out and new IMTs submitted.

17. So if a leave was put in for say 20 days. We got paid for 13 days. In order to be paid for the other 7 days, we need to back it out and re-enter it. And then submit a new claim?

Answer: There are 2 ways to gain the additional 7 days.

- a. Back out the ATV/ATH combo and enter ASA for day one of the leave. This will restore the ATV/ATH Extended Therapeutic Leave for use as additional days are needed outside the March 20 – October 23 timeframe.
- b. Leave the ATV/ATH combo in place and enter an ASA for day 14. This will require a Return for day 14 as well, with a time of 1 minute prior to the time on the ASA.

In either scenario, only days not previously billed will need to be billed as long as the backing out and resubmissions occur within the same week.

18. Can ASA Code be used for dates AFTER 10/23/2020?

Answer: No, HHSC is only authorized to pay for COVID Therapeutic Leave up to October 23, 2020.

19. If an individual utilized his 13 days but was not returned in his combination of ATH & AEV but was discharged at a later time due to choosing another provider - how is this going to affect us as the billing provider and the receiving provider?

Answer: Providers can only claim leave days that the individual was considered a resident of the provider's facility. If the individual remained away from the provider's facility for more than the allowed 13 days of leave and was still enrolled with the provider, then any remaining leave days before the individual transferred to a new provider can be billed under ASA for COVID Therapeutic Leave. The receiving provider would need to determine if additional absence days were accrued and submit leave days appropriately.

20. What about a resident that used their extended plus additional days at Thanksgiving because the family got COVID over the holiday and the resident stayed home at the family's request to monitor due to exposure?

Answer: The 90 days of COVID Therapeutic Leave using the code ASA is only allowed for dates of leave between March 20, 2020 and October 23, 2020. See IL 21-05 for examples of how COVID Therapeutic leave can be used.

21. What about residents that are now on COVID leave due to the family's concern over the spike in cases stemming from Christmas?

Answer: The 90 days of COVID Therapeutic Leave using the code ASA is only allowed for dates of leave between March 20, 2020 and October 23, 2020. [IL 2020-43](#) and the [Emergency Rule Related to Leave During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), (page 46 TexReg 990) effective January 29, 2021, provides guidance to providers and individuals about discharge if individuals choose to remain away from the

facility and are no longer on extended or therapeutic leave. See IL 21-05 for examples of how COVID Therapeutic leave can be used.

22. I have a resident that used their ATH and AEV for his 13 days at Thanksgiving but continued on leave due to COVID until December 21st. I was instructed to add his additional missed days as an ASA but he has now been placed on hold and his missed ASA days fall outside of the October cut off. What do we do?

Answer: November and December dates fall outside the approved timeframe for use of ASA for COVID-19 Therapeutic Leave. If ASA has been used for dates outside of the March 20 – October 23 timeframe for the purpose of COVID, claims could be recouped. Use of ASA for COVID Therapeutic Leave is only authorized for dates of service March 20 – October 23. See [IL 21-05](#) for examples of how COVID Therapeutic leave can be used.

23. What about if the provider had "new admissions and the revenue after retainer payments was increased? The increase would be because of the growth / increase in number of services.

Answer: The revenue comparison does not exclude any forms of revenue at this time. HHSC is reviewing provider feedback and questions on the revenue requirement and will update providers if any changes are made.

24. How is the provider going to get a copy of the attestation we submit?

Answer: After clicking the submit button at the bottom of the form, the software sets up an email message addressed to the mailbox and attaches the completed form. Open the attachment and save the copy to your records.

25. Is the 90 days consecutive? Or if the individual came / left during the emergency period?

Answer: No, the 90 days are not consecutive. If the individual returned and left again, all within the March 20 to October 23 timeframe, the provider is permitted to submit COVID-19 therapeutic leave for all days up to the 90-day limit.

26. There was also a rate increase during this time. What about the "profit" issue?

Answer: The revenue comparison does not exclude any forms of revenue at this time. HHSC is reviewing provider feedback and questions on the revenue requirement and will update providers if any changes are made.

27. The rate enhancement changed in Sept 2020. Would that not be a way to have increased direct care wages?

Answer: The revenue comparison does not exclude any forms of revenue at this time. HHSC is reviewing provider feedback and questions on the revenue requirement and will update providers if any changes are made.

28. If a family picks up individual on Friday afternoons and drops her off Sunday morning will affect her days. She would like to pick her up every weekend. How many days do they have for therapeutic day in 1 year? How many days do they have for COVID-19 therapeutic leave?

Answer: A family is allowed to pick up an individual for as many 3-day visits in a year as they want. This is submitted under the ATH code and includes the day of pick up plus up to 3 additional days. It would not count as COVID-19 Therapeutic Leave. Once a year the family can extend the visit to 13 days, which is a combination of therapeutic (ATH) and extended therapeutic (AEV) codes. COVID-19 Therapeutic Leave using the ASA code would only come into effect if the individual left for more days during March 20 – October 23, 2020 then a provider could submit as allowable leave days and be reimbursed.