

Healthy Texas Women - Medicaid

The 2-week comment period for the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) policy ended June 20, 2022. During this period, HHSC received multiple comments from stakeholders. A summary of comments relating to the proposed policy and HHSC's responses follow.

Policy Comment Responses

- 1. Comment:** Multiple commenters referenced HHSC guidance related to temporary flexibilities in place in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency allowing certain medical (physician delivered) evaluation and management (E/M) services to be delivered via telephone (audio-only) modality. The stakeholders are seeking clarity regarding whether these services will be included in the updated HTW policy guidance.

Response: HHSC acknowledges this comment. The guidance referenced by the stakeholders pertains to temporary flexibilities put in place to help ensure continuity of care during the initial COVID-19 (coronavirus) response. The temporary COVID-19 evaluation and management (E/M) guidance allows certain medical (physician delivered) E/M services to be delivered via telephone (audio-only). However, at this time, those E/M COVID-19 flexibilities will not be made a permanent benefit for Texas Medicaid or the HTW program.

- 2. Comment:** A commenter had questions regarding ongoing teleservices guidance for the Family Planning Program.

Response: HHSC acknowledges the comment, however HHSC's Family Planning Program is independent from the Healthy Texas Women and Medicaid programs. Information regarding the Family Planning Program may be found by visiting the following link:

<https://www.tmhp.com/programs/family-planning-program>, or by contacting program staff by email: famplan@hhs.texas.gov.

- 3. Comment:** A commenter requested clarification of the additional documentation requirements for certain behavioral health services delivered by synchronous audiovisual and/or synchronous telephone (audio-only) technologies, as referenced in Line 46 of the HTW policy.

Response: HHSC acknowledges this comment. HTW coverage is intended to mirror that of Texas Medicaid for the same services – meaning that the same benefit limitations and documentation requirements outlined in the related Texas Medicaid policies also apply to those services in the HTW policy. The relevant behavioral health policies are referenced throughout the

HTW policy to direct providers to more detailed benefit information for these services.