



Date: January 9, 2023

To: Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program Providers
Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program Providers
Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA)
Financial Management Services Agencies (FMSA)
Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Subject: Information Letter No. 2023-03 Individualized Skills and Socialization
Automatic Service Authorizations and Electronic Visit Verification

Effective January 1, 2023, individualized skills and socialization became an available service in the HCS and TxHmL Programs. For the time period of January 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023 both day habilitation and individualized skills and socialization will be allowable program services. Day habilitation will no longer be a Medicaid-billable service in the HCS or TxHmL Programs for dates of service beginning March 1, 2023, and ongoing.

On January 9, 2023, HHSC will automatically add units of individualized skills and socialization for all individuals with day habilitation (including individuals receiving in-home day habilitation through the COVID-19 flexibility) currently authorized on their individual plan of care (IPC). The units will be available for billing immediately for the provision of on-site, off-site, or in-home individualized skills and socialization and will be visible to program providers in the Medicaid Eligibility Service Authorization Verification (MESAV). The added units will be authorized beginning January 1, 2023 through the end of the individual's current IPC period. For individuals with an IPC period that must be renewed between January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023, the added units will be authorized until December 31, 2023.

These units for individualized skills and socialization will not be visible to program providers or service coordinators on the IPC in the Long-term Care Online Portal (LTCOP) on the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) website nor on the dashboard until a revision or renewal IPC is entered. This automatic service authorization will give service coordinators additional time to meet with the individual's service planning team (SPT) to update the individual's person-directed plan (PDP) and for program providers to update the individual's implementation plan (IP) as this new service takes effect. HHSC is implementing this process to minimize disruption to an individual's desired services.

Program Provider Responsibility to Confirm Licensure Prior to Billing

Program providers will be responsible for ensuring that a service provider of on-site or off-site individualized skills and socialization has obtained a license in accordance with [26 TAC, Chapter 559, Subchapter H](#) related to Individualized Skills and Socialization Provider Requirements prior to submitting a claim for individualized skills and socialization. Service providers of in-home individualized skills and socialization are not required to obtain a license.

Service Limits

The program provider must abide by the service limits for individualized skills and socialization and cannot submit a service claim that exceeds the service limits outlined in the HCS ([26 TAC §263.2015](#)) and TxHmL Program ([26 TAC §262.915](#)) rules. The service limit for the combined total of on-site, off-site, and in-home individualized skills and socialization is:

1. 1,560 hours during an IPC year
2. six hours per calendar day
3. five days per calendar week

From January 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023, if day habilitation is provided, the day habilitation service time is included in the calculation of individualized skills and socialization service limits. Program providers must not exceed the service limits for individualized skills and socialization when both services are provided. Day habilitation and individualized skills and socialization cannot be delivered at the same time but can be delivered on the same calendar day, up to the six hour per calendar day maximum for the combined services

The auto authorization may result in a combined number of units of day habilitation and individualized skills that exceeds the annual service limit of 1,560 hours per IPC year. Program providers are responsible for ensuring that the total service claims submitted for day habilitation and individualized skills and socialization do not exceed 1,560 during an IPC period.

Service Plan Revisions

At the individual's next service planning team meeting to complete a revision or renewal IPC (whichever occurs first) for individuals receiving individualized skills

and socialization, service coordinators should update the individual's PDP to reflect the new individualized skills and socialization service. During the service planning team meeting, any new goals related to the provision of on-site and off-site individualized skills and socialization should be discussed and documented in the new action plan. Until the PDP is updated, the individual's current day habilitation goals, frequency, and duration should be followed for the individualized skills and socialization service.

Following the update to the PDP, the IPC and IP must be updated in accordance with applicable HCS or TxHmL Program rules with the appropriate units of individualized skills and socialization. HHSC will update the IPC and IP form to add individualized skills and socialization by March 1, 2023.

All individual's PDPs, IPCs, and IPs must be updated with the appropriate units of individualized skills and socialization in accordance with applicable HCS or TxHmL Program rules by December 31, 2023.

For new enrollees and current enrollees who are not currently receiving day habilitation, individualized skills and socialization will need to be added, once the IPC and IP form have been updated, to the individual's service plan because units will not be auto-authorized for these individuals. Day habilitation can be added and delivered until February 28, 2023.

Compliance with Program Rules During Auto-Authorization Period

During the time period the auto-authorization is in effect for individualized skills and socialization, HHSC acknowledges that a program provider, FMSA, or LIDDA may not be in compliance with certain HCS or TxHmL Program rules related to services being provided in accordance with an individual's PDP, IPC, or implementation plan due to the nature of the auto-authorization process. During monitoring reviews, HHSC will take into consideration these auto-authorizations when measuring for compliance.

FMSAs must ensure the appropriate paperwork is revised from the HHSC auto-authorization, including but not limited to the budget workbooks and Form 1730, Wage and Benefits Plan Employee Compensation. FMSAs must continue to ensure the approved budget and reporting requirements are being followed. If a new employee will be needed to provide individualized skills and socialization services, all associated new hire documentation, background checks, and service agreement forms must be completed.

The program provider, or FMSA for individuals receiving individualized skills and socialization through the CDS Option, is responsible for sharing a copy of the MESAV report that shows the authorized units of individualized skills and socialization with the individual's service coordinator. Program providers are highly encouraged to have a copy of the MESAV available in the individual's record.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Individualized Skills and Socialization

Program providers must ensure EVV is used when delivering in-home individualized skills and socialization in an own home/family home (OHFH) setting. For dates of services on and after March 1, 2023, HHSC will deny or recoup a claim for in-home individualized skills and socialization in the own home/family home setting without a matching EVV visit record. For more information about EVV claims matching, refer to the EVV notice, "[EVV Claims Matching for HCS and TxHmL Starts March 1, 2023](#)".

Program providers must input the Texas EVV Attendant ID for in-home EVV individualized skills and socialization OHFH claims. [Email TMHP EVV Operations](#) for questions or refer to the document, [HCS and TxHmL Best Practices to Avoid EVV Claim Mismatches \(PDF\)](#), for more information to help avoid EVV claim mismatches. Refer to the [LTC Billing Crosswalk](#) for more information about Staff ID requirements.

By January 13, 2023, HHSC will update the EVV Personal Care Services Bill Codes Table, located on the [HHSC EVV web page](#), to include the specific Individualized Skills and Socialization billing codes which require EVV. [Sign up for EVV GovDelivery](#) to receive updates by email.

For EVV related contact information, reference the [EVV Contact Information Guide for Program Providers and FMSAs \(PDF\)](#).

Resources:

[Individualized Skills and Socialization Bill Code Crosswalk](#)

[Individualized Skills and Socialization Provider Portal](#)

[IL 23-01 Payment Rates for Individualized Skills and Socialization services in the DBMD, HCS, and TxHmL waiver programs Effective January 1, 2023](#)

For questions, please contact HCSPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or TxHmLPolicy@hhs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

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Medicaid and CHIP Service