



Date: April 5, 2023

To: Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter 2023-13 Ending of Temporary Emergency Rate Increases for Home and Community-based Services Programs Effective during the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation 9994 declaring a national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak, and Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster in all Texas counties due to COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19th, Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in Texas.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) adopted temporary emergency payment rate add-ons for Home and Community-based Services (HCS) waiver providers to support access and safety during the federally-declared public health emergency related to COVID-19. The payment rate add-ons for the HCS waiver apply only to providers delivering in-home day habilitation services to persons with intellectual disabilities or related conditions residing in three- or four-bed group homes and receiving Supervised Living or Residential Support Services.

The emergency payment rate add-ons were made effective retroactively to April 1, 2020. Since day habilitation ended as a Medicaid waiver service effective March 1, 2023, the emergency payment rate add-on will apply to the eligible services rendered prior to March 1, 2023.

The federally-declared Public Health Emergency (PHE) will cease on May 11, 2023.

Individualized Skills and Socialization Services

Pursuant to the necessary approvals, the temporary payment add-on rates were limited to providers delivering in-home day habilitation services to persons with intellectual disabilities or related conditions residing in three- or four-bed group homes and receiving Supervised Living or Residential Support Services. The temporary payment rate add-ons **do not** apply to providers delivering individualized skills and socialization services.

Payment Add-on Rate Information

The approved payment add-ons effective April 1, 2020, can be accessed on the [Provider Finance Department, Long Term Services and Supports website](#).

Claims Submission

Providers should continue to bill using their normal billing process. The bill codes are available on our website and are listed on the HHSC Bill Code Crosswalk.

Resources

Please contact the HHSC Provider Finance Department Long-term Services and Supports, Center for Information and Training at PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov if you have questions regarding the rates or this letter.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Samuel West
Director, Long-term Services and Supports of Provider Finance Department