



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

House Bill 4 – Medicaid and CHIP Teleservices

Erica Brown, *Deputy Director*
MCS Policy and Program

Background (1 of 3)

House Bill (HB) 4 (87th Legislative Session, 2021):

- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) allowed the use of telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only for many new Medicaid services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).
- HB4 requires HHSC to allow more services to be delivered using telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only methods on a permanent basis after the PHE ends if clinically appropriate and cost-effective.



Background (2 of 3)

Senate Bill (SB) 670 (86th Legislative Session, 2021):

- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) have the responsibility to determine which services could be delivered through telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only methods.
- Under SB670 MCOs cannot:
 - Deny reimbursement to health care providers for a Medicaid service or procedure just because it was delivered via telemedicine or telehealth
 - Deny or reduce reimbursement for a covered health care service or procedure based upon the network provider's choice of platform; and



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Background (3 of 3)

Senate Bill (SB) 670 (86th Legislative Session, 2021):

- Under SB670 MCOs:
 - Must ensure that telemedicine and telehealth services promote and support patient-centered medical homes.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

HB4 Timeline (1 of 3)

Phase I: Analysis - Winter 2022

- HHSC will release guidance about certain services that are approved for telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods on an ongoing basis.
- HHSC will begin releasing draft rules and other policy updates.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

HB4 Timeline (2 of 3)

Phase II: Analysis - Spring 2022

- HHSC will ask stakeholders for input about additional services that were available for remote delivery during the PHE to help determine whether permanent telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods would be cost-effective and clinically appropriate.
- HHSC will release guidance about additional services that are approved for telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

HB4 Timeline (3 of 3)

Phase III: Rulemaking - Summer 2022

- Rules required by legislation will be posted for public comment.

Phase IV: Finalizing Policy - Fall 2022

- HHSC expects to finalize formal policy changes after providing an opportunity for stakeholder input on posted rules and policies.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Teleservices

- **Winter Notices Issued**
 - Medicaid MCO Reminder – SB 670
 - CHIP Notice
 - Behavioral Health Audio-Only Services MCO Notice
 - Phase 1 Fee-For-Service Interim Guidance: Behavioral Health, Therapies, Healthy Texas Women
 - [Medicaid and CHIP Teleservices Website for Updates](#)
- **Next Steps**
 - Policy updates and stakeholder engagement
 - Rural Health Clinics
 - Home Telemonitoring



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Seeking Feedback on Draft Recommendations (1 of 2)

- **Assessments and Case Management Requirements for 1915 (c) Waiver Programs:**
 - **Assessments**
 - Flexibility for Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), Home and Community-based Services, and Texas Home Living waiver renewal assessments, including repeat waiver eligibility testing at either the third or fifth year, to be conducted using an audio-visual platform



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Seeking Feedback on Draft Recommendations (2 of 2)

- **Assessments and Case Management Requirements for 1915 (c) Waiver Programs:**
 - **Case Management**
 - Flexibility for monthly case management visits to be conducted using an audio-visual platform
 - Quarterly in-person case management visits maintained



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Stakeholder Input Requested

- **Do stakeholders have feedback about the flexibilities that have allowed telehealth during the public health emergency for the following, and for CLASS in particular:**
 - **Behavior supports**
 - **Cognitive rehabilitation therapies**

Note: Individuals would give permission to receive telehealth therapies, but we are seeking any feedback about concerns about the clinical effectiveness of telehealth for these therapies.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Resources

- **HHSC Website**
 - <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/provider-information/medicaid-chip-teleservices>
- **HHSC Email**
 - [HHSC MCS House Bill 4@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:HHSC_MCS_House_Bill_4@hhs.texas.gov)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Thank You
