



MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 21-05

Date: March 9, 2021

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: **1. Healthy Texas Women (HTW) Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver**
2. HTW Plus (HTW+)

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <http://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

1. Healthy Texas Women (HTW) Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver

Background

On January 22, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the HTW Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver, which allows the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to utilize federal funding for HTW recipients, ages 18-44. Because HTW is now a Medicaid program with limited benefits, HHSC must align HTW eligibility policy with Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medicaid requirements. All other HTW eligibility requirements shall remain the same with the exception of the changes provided in this bulletin.

Although the waiver only provides federal Medicaid funding for adult recipients, the eligibility changes discussed in this bulletin apply to all HTW applicants and recipients, ages 15 – 44.

Application Forms

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Women use [Form H1867](#), Texas Women's Health Program Application Form, to apply for HTW. ([TWH W-112](#), Application Procedures)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Women can apply for HTW using any MAGI Medicaid application. ([TWH A-113.1](#), Application Forms)

The paper versions of [Form H1010](#), Texas Works Application for Assistance – Your Texas Benefits, and [Form H1205](#), Texas Streamlined Application, and the application for medical assistance in YourTexasBenefits.com, are updated to:

- provide information about HTW and allow women to indicate they are applying for HTW;
- allow women to opt out of being tested for HTW eligibility;
- allow women to provide a confidential address and phone number; and
- add questions to determine if the woman has third party resources (TPR) that cover family planning services and if she is able to use this coverage.

Application Channels

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Women can access Form H1867:

- online at www.YourTexasBenefits.com;
- online at www.healthytexaswomen.org;
- by calling 2-1-1;
- by calling toll-free 866-993-9972;
- at a local Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) benefits office;
- from participating HTW providers; and
- at participating Supplemental Nutritional Assistance for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices and community-based organizations. ([TWH W-113](#), Requesting an Application)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Woman can access an application for MAGI Medicaid:

- online at www.YourTexasBenefits.com;
- by calling 2-1-1;
- by calling toll-free 866-993-9972;
- at a local Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) benefits office;
- from participating HTW providers; and
- at participating Supplemental Nutritional Assistance for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices and community-based organizations. ([TWH W-113](#), Requesting an Application).

Household Composition

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Household composition for an adult applicant includes the:

- applicant;
- applicant's spouse; and
- mutual and non-mutual children under age 19 of the applicant, spouse, or both.

Household composition for a minor applicant includes the:

- minor applicant;
- minor's parent(s);
- minor's sibling(s); and
- minor's children. ([TWH W-211](#), Budget Group)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Follow policy in [TWH A-240](#), Medical Programs, to determine the MAGI household composition for a HTW applicant.

Relationship

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

To include a child in the HTW applicant's budget group, a legal parent-child relationship must exist between a child and:

- an adoptive parent by proof of adoption; or
- the mother by proof of having given birth to the child. ([TWH W-610](#), General Policy)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Follow policy in TWH A-240 to determine the MAGI household composition for a HTW applicant.

Determining Financial Eligibility - Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Threshold, Countable Income, and Allowable Deductions

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

HTW uses financial eligibility rules that were in place for Texas Works Medicaid prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Staff follow policy in [TWH W-1400](#), Income to determine countable income.

HTW allows the following deductions:

- work-related expense deduction — up to \$120;
- dependent care;
- payments to dependents living outside the home;
- alimony;
- child support payments; and
- \$75 disregard. ([TWH W-1500](#), Deductions)

A woman’s financial eligibility does not need to be determined if she is adjunctively eligible for HTW. A woman is adjunctively eligible if she is included in an active:

- SNAP EDG;
- TANF EDG;
- Children’s Medicaid EDG (including Newborn Medicaid); or
- Medicaid for Parents and Caretaker Relatives EDG. ([TWH W-1420](#), Adjunctive Eligibility)

The income threshold for HTW is 200% FPL. ([TWH W-111](#), Type of Assistance (TA) 41 – Health Care – HTW)

New Policy

[Healthy Texas Women](#)

Financial eligibility for HTW must be determined for every applicant. Adjunctive eligibility no longer applies.

When determining financial eligibility for HTW, follow policy in:

- [TWH A-1300](#), Income, and [TWH A-1400](#), Deductions, to determine countable income and allowable deductions.
- [TWH A-1370](#), Verification Requirements, to verify reported income.

The income threshold for HTW is increased to 204.2% FPL to account for the loss of previously allowed deductions and changes in household composition.

Family Size	Monthly Maximum Family Income (2021)
1	\$2,192
2	\$2,965
3	\$3,737
4	\$4,510
5	\$5,282
6	\$6,055
7	\$6,828
For each additional person	+ \$773

Authorized Representatives

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

There is no policy for authorized representative designations for HTW.

Only the woman applying for HTW, or the parent of a minor applicant, can sign the HTW Healthy Texas Women application. ([TWH W-121](#), Filing an Application)

Staff must not provide any information regarding a woman's HTW application or her enrollment in HTW to anyone other than the woman or the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor. To maintain the woman's confidentiality, HTW correspondence is only sent to the HTW applicant or recipient or the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor. ([TWH W-2400](#), Confidentiality)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Follow policy in [TWH A-121](#), Receipt of Application, to determine if the woman's application for medical assistance has a valid signature. Follow policy in [TWH A-170](#), Authorized Representatives (AR), to add an authorized representative (AR) to the woman's case that includes an HTW EDG.

Although the AR can submit applications, renewals and changes on behalf of the HTW applicant or recipient, staff must continue to maintain the woman's confidentiality for the HTW program. An AR designated to the case can have access to all benefit information for the HTW EDG, however, they will not receive the woman's HTW correspondence. HTW correspondence will only be sent to the HTW applicant or recipient or the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor.

Follow policy in the [Changes](#) section of this bulletin when individuals call to report a change to a case with an HTW EDG.

MAGI Cascade

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

HTW is not considered a part of the MAGI cascade. TIERS does not test women for HTW eligibility if they do not qualify for Medicaid or CHIP unless they are transitioning from Medicaid for Pregnant Women.

During the last month of their Medicaid for Pregnant Women certification period, women between the ages of 18-44 who do not qualify for another Medicaid

program or CHIP and who do not have TPR are automatically enrolled into HTW. Financial eligibility rules are not applied. ([TWH W-914](#), Auto Enrollment into HTW)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

HTW is now part of the MAGI cascade. Women must first be determined ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP before being determined eligible for HTW. All eligibility rules (financial and non-financial) are applied before the woman is enrolled into HTW.

Women who do not qualify for Medicaid or CHIP or who were certified for Medicaid or CHIP and no longer qualify, are automatically tested for HTW eligibility.

Women are tested for HTW eligibility if they do not qualify for a higher-level Medicaid program or CHIP when staff process the following alerts:

- Alert 819, CHIP Child Aging Out Test MAGI;
- Alert 823, MA Child Aging Out Test MAGI;
- Alert 825, Transitional MA Ending Test MAGI;
- Alert 824, Pregnancy Ending Test MAGI; and
- Alert 903, FFCC Aging Out Test MAGI.

Additionally, women certified for CHIP-P are tested for HTW eligibility if they do not qualify for a higher-level Medicaid program or CHIP when EDBC is run after their pregnancy termination date is reported.

Women can opt out of the automatic HTW eligibility determination by indicating they do not want to be tested for HTW on their application. Women who opt out of HTW testing will be denied after being determined ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP.

Processing Time Frames

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

Applications

Staff must make an HTW eligibility determination within 45 days from the application's file date. Provide Form TF001W the same day eligibility is determined for an application, but no later than 45 days from the file date. ([TWH W-2010](#), Applications, and [TWH W-2020](#), Deadlines)

Renewals

TIERS sends a renewal packet, which includes [Form H1867-R](#), Texas Women's Health Program Application, during the 10th month of the woman's 12-month continuous eligibility period if she is not adjunctively eligible. If the woman is

adjunctively eligible, TIERS sends Form H1831 instead of the renewal application. ([TWH W-2050](#), Notice of Renewal/Expiration)

To be considered timely, HHSC must receive a woman's renewal application on or before the first day of the last month of the certification period. Complete renewals for women who are adjunctively eligible by the last workday of the last month in the certification period, or within five workdays from receiving [Form H1831](#), Adjunctive Eligibility Letter, if it is received on the last workday of the last certification month.

New Policy

[Healthy Texas Women](#)

Applications

Follow policy for Medical Programs in TWH B-100, Processing Time Frames.

Renewals

For HTW renewals, TIERS will send a new form, Form H1206-HTW instead of Form H1867-R or Form H1831. Follow policy in [TWH B-122.4](#), Medical Program Administrative Renewals, to process HTW renewals.

Electronic Notices

Current Policy

[Healthy Texas Women](#)

Women certified for HTW and the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor are not able to receive HTW notices electronically. To ensure the woman's enrollment in HTW remains confidential, HTW letters and forms must be mailed.

New Policy

[Healthy Texas Women](#)

Women certified for HTW and the parent or legal guardian of a HTW minor can choose to receive HTW notices electronically. To protect the woman's confidentiality, a separate and private email address or phone number must be provided to receive alerts for HTW electronic notices. HHSC will notify the woman by email or text when a notice is posted to her YourTexasBenefits.com account.

The Letters and Forms section of YourTexasBenefits.com is updated to display HTW notices and forms. HTW notices are only accessible to the woman who applied for or is certified for HTW, or to the parent or legal guardian of a minor to ensure confidentiality.

Changes

Current Policy

Healthy Texas Women

When someone calls to report a change for an HTW EDG, verify that the person reporting the change is the HTW applicant or recipient, or the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor, before discussing any information regarding the HTW EDG. If the caller is not the HTW applicant or recipient or parent or legal guardian, do not discuss the HTW EDG information with this person. ([TWH W-2111](#), Changes Received via Telephone)

New Policy

Healthy Texas Women

When someone calls to report a change for an HTW EDG, verify that the person reporting the change is the HTW applicant or recipient, the woman's authorized representative, or the parent or legal guardian of an HTW minor, before discussing any information regarding the HTW EDG. If the caller is not one of these people, do not discuss the HTW EDG information with this person.

DataMart Reports

Because HTW is now a limited benefits Medicaid program, it will be listed under Texas Works Medicaid or MA-Medicaid instead of General Revenue (GR) in all DataMart reports. Additionally, all previous references to 'TWHP' or 'WHP' in DataMart reports will now display as 'HTW'.

Correspondence

Form H1019-W, Form H1831, Form H1867, and Form H1867-R will be retired.

Form TF001W will also be retired. Women will receive Form TF0001 instead of Form TF001W when an eligibility determination for HTW is made. The HTW benefits information previously included on Form TF001W will be included on the Form TF0001 when it includes HTW eligibility information. The Form TF0001 notifying women of their HTW eligibility contains information about the woman's HTW certification period and benefits and does not provide information about the woman's eligibility for any other benefits. Likewise, HTW information is not included on a Form TF0001 with any other benefits.

Form H1872 is updated to remove information about auto enrollment from Medicaid for Pregnant Women and will be included with Form TF0001 when a woman is determined eligible for HTW.

Forms H1206-MA, H1206-FFCC, and H1206-MTFCY, and Form 1010-R are updated to capture information to determine if a woman is eligible for HTW if she does not qualify for Medicaid or CHIP.

To help ensure the woman's confidentiality, the client PDF provided to women who apply for HTW using YourTexasBenefits.com will continue to use the Form H1867 template.

Note: Renewal packets for women whose certification periods end in March 2021 – May 2021 will be mailed before the release date of this project. Staff must continue to accept retired HTW forms. If a retired form is submitted to apply for or renew HTW benefits, contact the woman if more information is needed to process her application or renewal using MAGI methodologies.

Automation

HTW application routing is changed in Eligibility Workload Management System (EWMS) and Task List Manager (TLM):

- Statewide staff will determine eligibility for HTW and dispose HTW EDGs if the application includes HTW and other benefits, or if the woman cascades to HTW after being determined ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP.
- CCC-HTW staff will continue to process HTW only applications and changes and redeterminations for women determined eligible for HTW.

Changes to TIERS and YourTexasBenefits.com are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release 109 on March 20, 2021.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the July 2021 revision.

Training

Training will be made available in a web-based module titled Healthy Texas Women 2021 on March 11, 2021.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 109 currently scheduled for March 20, 2021. Previous policy will apply to applications and redeterminations submitted on or before March 19, 2021.

2. HTW Plus (HTW+)

Background

The 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, passed Senate Bill (S.B.) 750, requiring HHSC to provide enhanced and limited postpartum care services to HTW members whose pregnancies ended within the 12 months preceding their enrollment into HTW. The expanded benefit package is known as HTW+.

There is not a separate eligibility determination for HTW+. If a woman is determined eligible for HTW and her pregnancy ended within the 12 months preceding her HTW eligibility date, she is eligible for HTW+ benefits during her 12-month HTW certification period.

A woman is not eligible to receive HTW+ benefits unless her pregnancy ended within the 12 months preceding the date she is eligible for HTW.

Current Policy

[Texas Works Medical Programs and Healthy Texas Women](#)

HHSC requests information about current pregnancies on application forms but does not ask women to identify if they were pregnant within the 12 months preceding their application for medical assistance.

New Policy

[Texas Works Medical Programs and Healthy Texas Women](#)

Applications, renewal forms, and YourTexasBenefits.com are updated to include the following questions:

- *Were you pregnant in the last 12 months?*
- *If yes, when did the pregnancy end?*

HHSC accepts self-attestation for these questions. Do not pend for verification of a previous pregnancy.

Automation

New fields are added to the **Individual Information Data Collection** screen.

- *Has the woman been pregnant within the last 12 months?*
- *Pregnancy Termination Date: mmddyyyy*

If a woman is determined eligible for HTW and her pregnancy ended within the 12 months preceding the date when EDBC is run, TIERS automatically adds an HTW+ indicator flag to the woman's HTW EDG.

The HTW+ indicator is included in the interface TIERS sends to Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP). TMHP uses the indicator to identify women who are eligible for expanded post-partum benefits (HTW+).

Correspondence

The following forms and the YourTexasBenefits.com applications are updated to include the pregnancy questions:

- [Form H1010](#), Texas Works Application for Assistance - Your Texas Benefits;
- [Form H1010-R](#), Your Texas Works Benefits: Renewal Form;
- [Form H1205](#), Texas Streamlined Application; and
- Form H1206, Health Care Benefits Renewal (all Texas Works renewal forms).

HTW+ benefits information is added to Form H1872 and Form TF0001, Notice of Case Action, for HTW benefits.

Handbook

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Training

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Effective Date

This policy is effective with the implementation of TIERS Release 109 currently scheduled for March 20, 2021.