



Stakeholder Update: COVID-19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
May 2023**



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Stakeholder Session Update

- *Beginning May 6, 2021, HHSC posted pre-recorded sessions monthly to share information with stakeholders about the implementation of various Medicaid/CHIP flexibilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *The federal public health emergency (PHE) declared January 31, 2020, will now end on May 11, 2023.*
- *This is the last scheduled stakeholder recording for COVID-19 updates.*





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COVID-19 Medicaid and CHIP Updates

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Office of Policy

Reminder: Teleservices (Part 1 of 2)

- During the COVID-19 PHE, HHSC authorized the use of audio-visual and audio-only telemedicine and telehealth to deliver a range of services.
- House Bill 4 (87th Regular Legislative Session, 2021) made permanent many of these PHE flexibilities and furthered use of teleservices overall, if clinically effective and cost-effective.
- Most fee-for-service changes went into effective September 1, 2022. Changes are outlined in provider manuals such as the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual.
- Related notices highlighted on HHSC website [here](#).



Reminder: Teleservices (Part 2 of 2)

- Managed care organizations already had the authority to reimburse telehealth and telemedicine services.
- Senate Bill 670 (86th Legislative Session, Regular Session, 2019) prohibits Medicaid health plans from denying reimbursement for telemedicine or telehealth services solely because the service was delivered remotely.
- Health plans should use clinical and cost effectiveness, among other factors, in making their coverage determinations.



COVID-19 Guidance for Audio-Only Medical Services will End with the End of the PHE (Part 1 of 2)

- [Medicaid TMHP Notice](#) and corresponding [HTW TMHP Notice](#) posted April 13, 2023.
- Flexibility allowing non-behavioral health telephone (audio-only) medical (physician-delivered) evaluation and management (E/M) services is ending with the end of the federal PHE (May 11, 2023).
- From March 20, 2020, through May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized providers, including HTW providers, to bill several procedure codes with modifier 95 for medical (physician-delivered) evaluation and management (E/M) services delivered by telephone.



COVID-19 Guidance for Audio-Only Medical Services will End with the End of the PHE (Part 2 of 2)

- HHSC issued interim guidance in the TMHP notice titled “[HB4: Non-Behavioral Health Audio-only Medical Office Visits Interim Guidance](#)” that will take effect May 12, 2023, to allow some audio-only services to continue beyond the PHE in addition to those already implemented in policy.
- Corresponding HTW interim guidance [TMHP notice](#) posted April 13, 2023.
- TMPPM expected to be updated December 1, 2023 for Medicaid and HTW.



HB4: Interim Guidance for Non-Behavioral Health Audio-Only Medical Office Visits

- May 12, 2023, through December 1, 2023, Medicaid and HTW providers may submit claims for several non-BH services for established clients by synchronous telephone technology when appended with modifier 93.
- The service should only be delivered through synchronous telephone (audio-only) technology if:
 - The provider determines that it is clinically appropriate.
 - The client who is receiving the services or their legally authorized representative agrees.
- HHSC encourages face-to-face interaction when possible.
- The service should only be provided by audio-only delivery as medically necessary.



COVID-19 Update to Temporary Change to HCS and TxHmL Policy for Respite, CFC PAS/HAB Service Provider

- [TMHP Notice](#) posted April 13, 2023.
- In March 2020, HHSC implemented a temporary policy change for respite and Community First Choice Personal Assistance Services/Habilitation provided in the Home and Community-based Services and Texas Home Living waiver programs.
- Allows service providers of respite and CFC PAS/HAB to live in the same home as the person receiving these services.
- This change is effective through August 31, 2023. HHSC will provide guidance if anything changes.





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COVID-19 Medical Benefits Updates

Rachel Roedl, *P.S. VI*

Medical Benefits Policy

Procedure Code S8301 No Longer a Benefit Effective May 12

- [TMHP Notice](#) updated April 19, 2023.
- Infection control supplies procedure code S8301 will no longer be a benefit of Texas Medicaid, effective for dates of service on or after May 12, 2023.
- For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 800-925-9126.



COVID-19 Procedure Code Updates for First Quarter 2023 HCPCS (Part 1 of 2)

- [TMHP Notice](#) posted April 11, 2023.
- On March 30, 2023, TMHP implemented the first quarter 2023 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) discontinuations and additions, which include COVID-19 procedure code updates.



COVID-19 Procedure Code Updates for First Quarter 2023 HCPCS (Part 2 of 2)

- Effective May 12, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will discontinue the following procedure codes: G2023, G2024, U0003, U0004, U0005.
- Discontinued procedure codes will not be reimbursed after May 11, 2023.
- Effective April 1, 2023, many reserved procedure codes were added as non-covered procedure codes because their descriptions are pending. Please see the full notice for the list of all of these codes.



COVID-19 Response

- Members can reach out to their health plans or providers for more information.
- Providers can check TMHP's website and use the health plans internal channels.
- Submit questions to:
Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhs.texas.gov





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Thank You!
