

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Public Notice: Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance Amendment

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announces its intent to submit amendments to the Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

The purpose of the amendment is to update the rate methodology and payment rates for Nursing Facilities (NF). HHSC is making these changes in accordance with the 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 24), which requires HHSC to implement NF reimbursement rate changes to increase the wages and benefits of direct care staff and ensure that at least 90 percent of appropriated funds are expended for the benefit of direct care staff wages and benefits. The proposed amendment also revises the initial cost report database to calculate the direct care cost component to be the most recent Texas Medicaid NF Cost Report database. The proposed amendment is effective September 1, 2023.

The proposed amendment is estimated to result in an annual aggregate fee-for-service expenditure of \$6,437,477 for federal fiscal year 2023, consisting of \$4,015,055 in federal funds and \$2,422,423 in state general revenue. For federal fiscal year 2024, the estimated annual aggregate fee-for-service expenditure is \$87,657,130, consisting of \$52,725,764 in federal funds and \$34,931,366 in state general revenue. For federal fiscal year 2025, the estimated annual aggregate fee-for-service expenditure is \$91,350,441, consisting of \$54,947,290 in federal funds and \$36,403,151 in state general revenue.

Further detail on specific reimbursement rate changes is available on the HHSC Provider Finance Department (PFD) website under the proposed effective date at <http://pfd.hhs.texas.gov/rate-packets>.

A rate hearing will be held on July 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Austin, Texas. Information about the proposed rate change and the hearing can be found in the June 16, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* on pages 3342-3343 at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>.

Copy of Proposed Amendment(s). To obtain copies of the proposed amendment, interested parties may contact Nicole Hotchkiss, State Plan Coordinator, by mail at the Health and Human Services Commission, PO Box 13247, Mail Code H-600, Austin, Texas 78711; by telephone at (512) 438-5035; by facsimile at (512) 730-7472; or by email at medicaid_chip_spa_inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us. Copies of the proposal will also be made available for public review at the local offices of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Written Comments. Written comments and requests to review comments may be sent by U.S. mail, overnight mail, special delivery mail, hand delivery, fax, or email:

U.S. Mail

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Attention: Provider Finance, Mail Code H-400
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, Texas 78714-9030

Overnight mail, special delivery mail, or hand delivery

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Attention: Provider Finance, Mail Code H-400
North Austin Complex
4601 West Guadalupe Street
Austin, Texas 78751
Phone number for package delivery: (512) 730-7401

Fax

Attention: Provider Finance at (512) 730-7475

Email

PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov

Persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the hearing and require auxiliary aids or services should contact Provider Finance at (512) 730-7401 at least 72 hours before the hearing so appropriate arrangements can be made.