



Date: June 11, 2021

To: Managed Care Service Coordinators
Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Program
Providers
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program Providers
Home and Community-based Services Program Providers
Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities
Texas Home Living Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 2021-29 (Replaces IL 21-25)
Coordination of STAR Kids Services and IDD Waiver Services
(Revised 06/15/2021)

This information letter (IL) replaces IL 2021-25, Coordination of STAR Kids Services and IDD Waiver Services, released on May 10, 2021. This new version adds links to the "Coordination of STAR Kids Services and IDD Waiver Services" pamphlet available in both English and Spanish.

The purpose of this letter is to describe the coordination of services for an individual who is enrolled in the STAR Kids Program (STAR Kids) and in one of the following waiver programs for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD waiver programs):

- the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program;
- the Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Program;
- the Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Program;
- and
- the Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) program.

STAR Kids is a managed care program that provides Medicaid services to individuals under 21 years of age who have disabilities. Individuals under 21 years of age who receive services through one of the IDD waiver programs must also be enrolled in [STAR Kids](#).

If an individual under 21 years of age who is enrolled in an IDD waiver program needs a service that is offered through both STAR Kids and the IDD waiver program, the individual must receive the service through STAR Kids, except service coordination and some nursing services, as described in this letter.

The STAR Kids program provides the following Medicaid services:

- Service coordination;
- Nursing services;
- Hospital services;
- Prescription drugs and vaccines;
- Audiology services;
- Dietary services;
- Occupational therapy services;
- Orientation and mobility;
- Physical therapy Services;
- Speech, hearing and language therapy services;
- Speech and language pathology;
- Medical equipment and medical supplies;
- Dental Services through a dental maintenance organization;
- Long-term services and supports, like private duty nursing and personal care services provided in the individual's home; and
- Unless the individual has Medicare, a primary care provider.

An individual under 21 years of age enrolled in an IDD waiver program must receive all nursing services through STAR Kids, except for nursing services that are required for the provision of a waiver service.

Nursing services that are required for the provision of a waiver service include:

- conducting a nursing assessment required by the IDD waiver program; and
- training and oversight of unlicensed IDD waiver service providers performing delegated nursing tasks during the provision of a waiver service.

If you are unsure if a nursing service is provided through an IDD waiver or if it is provided by STAR Kids, please contact the appropriate IDD waiver mailbox included at the end of this letter. In STAR Kids, an individual has a service coordinator.

Individuals who are enrolled in an IDD waiver program receive service coordination in the HCS and TxHmL Programs and case management in the CLASS and DBMD Programs.

STAR Kids service coordinators and IDD waiver case managers and service coordinators must communicate with each other to coordinate services for an individual. Here are some examples of when this coordination should occur:

- to determine which nursing activities will be provided through STAR Kids and which ones will be provided through the IDD waiver program;
- to determine if nursing tasks can be delegated to or provided by an unlicensed service provider as Community First Choice personal attendant services/habilitation provided through the IDD waiver program;
- to coordinate the funding between STAR Kids and the IDD waiver program for adaptive aids, durable medical equipment and medical supplies;
- to identify potential resources other than STAR Kids and IDD waiver programs; and
- to coordinate the transition of services from STAR Kids to the IDD waiver for an individual who will no longer be eligible for STAR Kids because of his or her age.

HHSC has developed a pamphlet, "Coordinating Services for Children in IDD Waiver Programs and STAR Kids" available in both English ([English PDF](#)) and Spanish ([Español PDF](#)), to help families understand the services provided through STAR Kids and the IDD waiver programs. An IDD waiver program case manager or service coordinator must provide a copy of this pamphlet to:

- individuals who are enrolled in an IDD waiver program and STAR Kids and their families, within 30 days after the date of this letter;
- individuals under 21 years of age who are enrolling in an IDD waiver program and their families; and
- individuals under 21 years of age or family members who request a copy of the pamphlet.

If the family or individual does not know who their STAR Kids service coordinator is, a list of MCO contacts can be accessed here:

- **Amerigroup:** <https://providers.amerigroup.com/tx> OR call 1-866-696-0710, ext. 31084
- **Blue Cross and Blue Shield:** <http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/> OR call 1-877-784-6802
- **Community First Health Plans:** <http://www.cfhp.com/providers/> OR 1-855-607-7827
- **Cook Children's Health Plan:** <http://www.cookchp.org/English/Providers/Pages/default.aspx> OR 1-800-964-2247
- **Driscoll Health:** www.driscollhealthplan.com OR 1-361-694-6554
- **Superior Health Plan:** <http://www.superiorhealthplan.com/for-providers/> OR call 1-877-391-5921
- **Texas Children's Health Plan:** www.TexasChildrensHealthPlan.org OR 1-877-213-5508
- **United Healthcare:** <http://www.uhcommunityplan.com/health-professionals.html> OR call 1-877-887-9003

For questions regarding this information letter, please contact:

- HCSPolicy@hhs.texas.gov for questions about HCS;
- TxHmLPolicy@hhs.texas.gov for questions about TxHmL;
- CLASSPolicy@hhs.texas.gov for questions about CLASS; or
- DBMDPolicy@hhs.texas.gov for questions about DBMD;

Sincerely,

[Signature on file]

Michelle Erwin
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Office of Policy and Program
Medicaid and CHIP Services