



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
April 29, 2021**



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MCS Policy & Program COVID-19 Updates

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COVID-19 Updates

- Many Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through **May 31, 2021**, unless the federal Public Health Emergency ends sooner.
 - HHSC will provide more information if there are changes.



COVID-19 Updates

- Information on the flexibilities and extensions can be found on the following webpages:
 - TMHP Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information (<http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-HOME.aspx>).
 - HHS Provider (PL) and Information (IL) letters (<http://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/letters.cfm>).
 - HHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Provider Information (<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/medicaid-chip-services-information-providers>).

Kellie Dees



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COVID-19 Updates

End of COVID-19 MDS Authorization Extensions for Nursing Facility Providers

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced it is ending the emergency blanket waiver of the timeframe requirements for completing and transmitting the nursing facility MDS assessment authorizations, effective May 10, 2021.
- HHSC will no longer have the authority to extend MDS assessments after the CMS May 10th effective date.
- HHSC will extend the MDS assessment authorizations expiring May 1, 2021 through May 9, 2021 for 90 days.

Kellie Dees



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FQHCs and RHCs Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

- Beginning March 23, 2021, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) may be reimbursed for COVID-19 vaccine administration services.
 - Procedure codes 0001A, 0002A, 0011A, 0012A, and 0031A



FQHCs and RHCs Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

- This update applies to the following programs when services are rendered in an office, outpatient hospital or other location setting:
 - Medicaid
 - Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services program
 - Healthy Texas Women (HTW)
 - Family Planning Program (FPP) clients



FQHCs and RHCs Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

- FQHC and RHC providers may bill retroactively for COVID-19 vaccine administration services provided on or after the effective dates listed in the table below:

Procedure Code	Effective Date
0001A & 0002A	December 11, 2020
0011A & 0012A	December 18, 2020
0031A	February 27, 2021



FQHCs and RHCs Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

- Affected claims submitted with these procedure codes for dates of service on or after the effective dates listed in the previous slide must be reprocessed.
- Providers are not required to appeal the claims unless they are denied for additional reasons after the claims reprocessing is complete.
- Claims for COVID-19 vaccine administration must be submitted using the appropriate vaccine administration code, to be reimbursed outside of the prospective payment system (PPS) encounter rate, when that is the only service provided on that date of service.



FQHCs and RHCs Reimbursement for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

- If the COVID-19 vaccine is administered as part of an encounter, or other services are provided on the same date of service, claims must be submitted for the usual encounter code and only the PPS encounter rate will be reimbursed.
- TMHP notice: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-04-19-fqhcs-and-rhcs-reimbursement-covid-19-vaccine-administration-services>



Some COVID-19 Laboratory Procedure Codes Updated to Become Benefits for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Providers

- Effective April 13, 2021, some COVID-19 laboratory procedure codes will be payable to enrolled pharmacist and pharmacy provider type when services are rendered to a Texas Medicaid client in an office setting.

Note: Pharmacies are considered office settings for pharmacists and pharmacy providers who provide these services.



Some COVID-19 Laboratory Procedure Codes Updated to Become Benefits for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Providers

- This update applies to the COVID-19 laboratory procedure codes listed in the following table:

Procedure Codes					
86318	86328	86408	86409	86413	86769
87426	87428	87635	87636	87637	87811
U0001	U0002	U0003	U0004	U0005	

- TMHP Notice: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-04-26-some-covid-19-laboratory-procedure-codes-updated-become-benefits-pharmacists-and>

Sara Gonzaga





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HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity

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Program Enrollment & Support

HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity

Background:

- The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has taken multiple steps to comply with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance (Interim Final Rule CMS-9912-IFC) issued on October 28, 2020. This includes resuming waiver termination activity.



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HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity (cont.)

Background:

- On February 4, 2021, the presentation on “Age Outs and Waiver Terminations” outlined resuming Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) and STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver termination activity.
 - [Medicaid CHIP COVID-19 Information \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Medicaid CHIP COVID-19 Information recording](#)
- Today’s presentation will cover other remaining waiver programs.



HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity (cont.)

- HHSC is resuming ending waiver services, while maintaining continuous Medicaid coverage, for the following programs:
 - Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
 - Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
 - Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
 - Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
- **Starting May 10, 2021**, HHSC will resume waiver termination activity of individuals who are determined to no longer be eligible for the programs listed above.



HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity (cont.)

HHSC is resuming ending waiver services while maintaining continuous Medicaid coverage.

- Individuals no longer eligible for these waivers because they do not meet the waiver program eligibility criteria will lose waiver services and continue receiving Medicaid state plan services until the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
 - *If there are any additional changes to Medicaid coverage, HHSC will notify individuals at the appropriate time.*
- Individuals will be given the right to appeal the termination decision and may request a fair hearing.



HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, and DBMD Termination Activity (cont.)

- HHSC urges case managers and service coordinators to:
 - Provide helpful information to an individual who wants to appeal an eligibility determination made by HHSC, and
 - Assist an individual whose waiver services are terminated.
- For more information, please refer to the information letter posted on [Letters to HHS Long-term Care Providers](#):
 - April 22, 2021 ([IL 2021-19](#)) - Termination of Waiver Services during the Public Health Emergency





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Long-term Care Regulatory Update

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Sr. Policy Specialist

LTCR Policy, Rules and Training

Regulatory Services Updates:

Rules

- **New visitation rules:** Effective April 23, 2021
Nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, ICFs, in-patient hospices, and home and community-based services program providers
“Visitors, except for essential caregivers, may be any age. Visitors under the age of two are exempt from all requirements related to wearing masks described in this section.”
- **Upcoming:** Temporary nurse aide certification rules



Regulatory Services Updates:

New Guidance

Effective April 27, 2021

- [CDC Guidance](#) for Health Care Facilities
- CMS Revised Guidance for Nursing Homes
 - [QSO-20-38](#) (testing)
 - [QSO-20-39](#) (visitation)



Regulatory Services Reminders

- Vaccination reporting is required for NFs, ALFs, and ICFs.
- LTCR Q&A Webinar schedule, effective May 1:
 - NF, ALF: Every other week
 - ICF, HCSSA: Once a month
 - DAHS Every other month
- Regulatory policy/rules questions?
 - Contact us at:

LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or

512-438-3161



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COVID-19 Response

Communication Channels

Clients

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- Health plan channels and providers

Providers

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- [COVID section on TMHP site](#)
- Health plan channels

+ Update calls

Submit questions to:
Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhs.texas.gov



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Thank You!

**Next update:
May 6, 2021**