

All MCOs & DMOs: COVID-19 MCO Notices Updated with Extensions

Background:

In response to COVID-19, HHSC has been posting MCO Notices to TexConnect with guidance that contains dates for which the guidance applies. Many dates on posted guidance are set to expire at the end of July.

Key Details:

HHSC is updating many MCO Notices with guidance dates that expire at the end of July to extend through October 23, 2020, unless the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services ends the public health emergency earlier. The previously posted notices in TexConnect have been edited to reflect the new extension date.

The only flexibility ending July 31, 2020 is the previous extension from 30 days to 60 days for MCO appeal determinations.

See attached for a list of all the updated MCO Notices. If you do not see one of these notices posted in TexConnect, then it is not relevant to your health plan. The four tables of updated notices are:

1. MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through October 23, 2020
 - These Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through October 23, 2020, unless the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services ends the public health emergency earlier. If the public health emergency ends earlier, HHSC will provide additional information.
2. Notices with Flexibilities Extended Until Further Guidance
 - The flexibilities listed in these notices are extended until HHSC provides further guidance.
3. Flexibilities Ending July 31, 2020
 - These notices were not updated as the flexibility will end July 31, 2020.
4. Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices
 - These various notices were not updated as the guidance either remains in effect until rescinded, already states through the public health emergency, or the extension details remain the same. Please view these notices in TexConnect for flexibility details.

Resources:

Extensions - COVID MCO Notices Tables (Attached)

Contact:

MCO_COVID-19_Inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us

MCO Notices Extension Updates

Updates made July 30, 2020

MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through October 23, 2020

The following Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through October 23, 2020, unless the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services ends the public health emergency earlier. If the public health emergency ends earlier, HHSC will provide additional information.

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
COVID-19 Guidance: Temporarily Allow Verbal Consent from Members on Service Plans & Related Forms	June 17
New Guidance: THSteps Medical Checkups via Remote Delivery During Implementing COVID-19 Restrictions	May 11
COVID-19 Guidance: STAR Kids Age-Outs that Transitioned on April 1, 2020 <i>For related information, see "Supplemental Files of STAR Kids March Age-Outs that Transitioned to STAR+PLUS on April 1, 2020" notice published April 28.</i>	April 23
No Signature Required for Prescription Drug Delivery	April 20
THSteps Medical and Dental Checkups during COVID-19	April 17
COVID-19 Guidance: Nursing Facility MDS Authorization Extensions	April 9
Provider Enrollment Requirement Waivers due to COVID-19	April 2
Add Rural Health Clinics as Telehealth and Telemedicine Sites	March 27
COVID-19 Guidance: Face to Face Visits and Service Coordination/Case Management	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance: Amend the General Revenue (GR) Process for Services that Exceed the Program Cost Limit	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance: Appeal and Continuation of Benefit Request Extensions	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance: Oral Requests for an Appeal	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance: Fair Hearing Request Extensions	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance: Fair Hearing Determination Extensions	March 26
COVID-19 Guidance for the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Option	March 24

COVID-19 Guidance for MCOs regarding Durable Medical Equipment	March 24
Post Temporary EVV Policies by April 6	March 23
Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Behavioral Health Services	March 20
Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Medical Services	March 20
Initial COVID-19 Guidance: Face to Face Service Coordination	March 13

Notices with Flexibilities Extended Until Further Guidance

The flexibilities listed in the following notices are extended until HHSC provides further guidance.

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Updated Guidance: CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	June 8
CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	May 18
COVID-19 Guidance – MCO Telehealth Assessments and June Waiver Extension	May 18
Clarification to Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations	April 14
Clarification: Guidance for MCOs and MMPs regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations <i>For updated guidance, see "Clarification to Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations" notice published April 14.</i>	April 3
Updated: Guidance for MCOs and MMPs regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations <i>For updated guidance, see "Clarification to Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations" notice published April 14.</i>	March 31
HHSC Extends Enrollment in STAR+PLUS HCBS and MDCP for Members with ISPs Expiring through April 2020	March 23
Waiver of CHIP Copayments	March 23

Flexibilities Ending July 31, 2020

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
COVID-19: MCO Appeal Determination Extension Reporting <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility will end July 31, 2020.</i>	May 5
COVID-19 Guidance: MCO Appeal Determinations <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility will end July 31, 2020.</i>	March 26

Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same.</i>	June 29
Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19: Revised Due Date Extensions <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same</i>	July 16
Procedure Code Addition and Update for COVID-19 <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	July 13
Reprocessing Guidance for COVID-19 Related Claims <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	July 6
Emergency Rate Increases for the Nursing Facilities Effective Retroactive to April 1, 2020 <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same.</i>	July 2
Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	June 29
Leveraging Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	June 27
Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19 <i>For updated guidance, see "Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19: Revised Due Date Extensions" notice published July 16.</i>	June 18

<p>COVID-19 – Spell of Illness Limitation in STAR Health</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same.</i></p>	June 4
<p>Spell of Illness Limitation and COVID-19</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same.</i></p>	June 4
<p>COVID-19 and Applicability of EPSDT for Some Adults in STAR and STAR Health</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as it already states through end of public health emergency.</i></p>	June 2
<p>Two MCO Notices Retracted: April 3, 2020 MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Releases</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated. As it states, HHSC has postponed MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS interest list releases as of April 2020 until further guidance is provided.</i></p>	May 28
<p>Specialty Drug List from Quarter Four (December 2019) Remains in Effect</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	May 22
<p>Service Planning for Pregnant Women During COVID-19</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	May 22
<p>COVID-19: Service-Level Changes Resulting from Telehealth and Telephonic Visits</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	May 7
<p>Money Follows the Person Process for Nursing Facility Residents</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	May 5
<p>MCO COVID-19 Guidance: Telehealth for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	April 10
<p>FQHC Reimbursement for Telemedicine (Physician Deliv.) & Telehealth (Non-Physician-Deliv.) Services</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	March 19