

## **All MCOs, DMOs, and MMPs: COVID-19 MCO Notices Extension Updates**

### **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 on Dec. 31, 2020.

### **Key Details:**

HHSC is updating many MCO Notices with guidance dates that expire at the end of Dec. 31, 2020 to extend through the end of the public health emergency (PHE), January 21, 2021, or through January 31, 2021 if the federal PHE is extended.

The previously posted individual notices in TexConnect will be edited by Dec. 16 to reflect the new extension dates.

### **The following flexibility is now ending Dec. 31, 2020:**

- **Provider Re-credentialing:** Allow 60-day extension for MCO/DMO to complete re-credentialing activities. To align with extensions ending from the following accreditation organizations: Utilization Review Accreditation Commission ends on December 1, 2020; and the National Committee for Quality Assurance ends on December 31, 2020.

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

#### MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through January 21, 2020:

- These Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through the end of the public health emergency (PHE), January 21, 2021, or through January 31, 2021 if the federal PHE is extended.

#### MCO Notices with Flexibilities That Have Ended

- This includes flexibilities that have ended July 31, 2020; October 23, 2020; November 30, 2020; and flexibilities that will end December 31, 2020.

#### Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices

- These various notices were not updated as the guidance either remains in effect until rescinded or the extension details remain the same.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](mailto:MCO_COVID-19_Inquiries@hhsc.state.tx.us)

# MCO Notices Extension Updates

Updates made December 14, 2020

## MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through January 21, 2021\*

*\*The following Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through the end of the public health emergency (PHE), January 21, 2021, or through January 31, 2021 if the federal PHE is extended.*

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Updated Guidance-Completing Initial Assessments & Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plan	Oct. 27
Completing Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plans  <i>For updated guidance, see "Updated Guidance-Completing Initial Assessments &amp; Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plan" notice published Oct. 27.</i>	Sept. 21
Guidance Regarding Third Party Resources for STAR Health Member	Aug. 24
Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations	June 29
COVID-19 Guidance: Temporarily Allow Verbal Consent from Members on Service Plans & Related Forms	June 17
Updated Guidance: CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	June 8
CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	May 18
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
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 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
Waiver of CHIP Copayments	March 23
Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Behavioral Health Services	March 20
Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Medical Services	March 20

## MCO Notices with Flexibilities That Have Ended

### Flexibilities Ending December 31, 2020

*The bolded notices listed are newly announced flexibilities ending.*

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 to end Dec. 31, 2020	Nov. 24
90-Day Prior Authorization Extensions to End Dec. 31. 2020	Nov. 24
Post EVV Communications by Oct. 26 <i>For updated guidance, see "Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 to end Dec. 31, 2020" notice published on Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	Oct. 12
Post Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 by Aug. 20 <i>For updated guidance, see "Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 to end Dec. 31, 2020" notice published on Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	Aug. 6
Clarification to Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations <i>For updated guidance, see "90-Day Prior Authorization Extensions to End Dec. 31. 2020" notice published Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	April 14
Clarification: Guidance for MCOs and MMPs regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations	April 3

<i>For updated guidance, see "90-Day Prior Authorization Extensions to End Dec. 31, 2020" notice published Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	
Updated: Guidance for MCOs and MMPs regarding Extensions for Existing Prior Authorizations <i>For updated guidance, see "90-Day Prior Authorization Extensions to End Dec. 31, 2020" notice published Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	March 31
Post Temporary EVV Policies by April 6 <i>For updated guidance, see "Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 to end Dec. 31, 2020" notice published on Nov. 24, 2020.</i>	March 23
<b>Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19: Revised Due Date Extensions</b> <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility will end Dec. 31, 2020.</i>	<b>July 16</b>
<b>Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19</b> <i>For updated guidance, see "Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19: Revised Due Date Extensions" notice published July 16.</i>	<b>June 18</b>
<b>Flexibilities Ended November 30, 2020</b>	
<b>Title of MCO Notice:</b>	<b>Issued On:</b>
FQHC Reimbursement for Telemedicine (Physician Deliv.) & Telehealth (Non-Physician-Deliv.) Services <i>Effective Dec. 1, 2020, FQHCs may be reimbursed as telemedicine and telehealth distant site provider as permanent policy change per S.B. 670, Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019.</i>	March 19
<b>Flexibilities Ended October 23, 2020</b>	
<b>Title of MCO Notice:</b>	<b>Issued On:</b>
THSteps Medical and Dental Checkups during COVID-19 <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended Oct. 23, 2020. For guidance on the flexibility ending, see the notice titled, "THSteps Outreach and Education to Farmworker Children Waiver Ended" published Nov. 12.</i>	April 17
<b>Flexibilities Ended July 31, 2020</b>	
<b>Title of MCO Notice:</b>	<b>Issued On:</b>
COVID-19: MCO Appeal Determination Extension Reporting <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended July 31, 2020.</i>	May 5
COVID-19 Guidance: MCO Appeal Determinations <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended July 31, 2020.</i>	March 26

## Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
<p>Preparing Pharmacy Claim Systems for COVID Vaccines</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 14
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 14
<p>Addition of Bamlanivimab as Texas Medicaid Benefit</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 14
<p>Available Resources to Provide Personal Protective Equipment for the CDS Option</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 14
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccine Administration Codes</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 10
<p>STAR+PLUS HCBS Upgrade Process for Members Who Exited a NF Due to COVID-19 Without Services in Place</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Nov. 24
<p>Emergency Rate Increases for NFs Effective April 1, Extended through End of Federally-approved PHE</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Nov. 19
<p>New Coronavirus (COVID-19) Procedure Codes for the Introduction of Infusion of Therapeutics</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Nov. 10
<p>Update: STAR Kids MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Releases</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Nov. 10
<p>Electronic Data Verification Scoring Results</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Nov. 5
<p>STAR Kids MDCP Only: Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Oct. 27
<p>STAR+PLUS HCBS Only: Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments</p>	Oct. 27

<i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	
Certain COVID-19 Procedure Codes Implemented Retroactively – Clarification <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	Oct. 8
Aug. 4 MCO Notice Retracted: Updated Information on COVID-19 Medicaid Renewals <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	Oct. 6
New Value Point of Origin for Admission of Visit Code “G,” In Use Beginning July 1, 2020 <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	Oct. 1
Updated Information: Spell of Illness Limitation and COVID-19 <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	Sept. 17
Updated Information: COVID-19 – Spell of Illness Limitation in STAR Health <i>This notice was not updated as the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	Sept. 17
Certain COVID-19 Procedure Codes Implemented Retroactively <i>For updated guidance, see "Certain COVID-19 Procedure Codes Implemented Retroactively - Clarification" posted on Oct. 8. There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	Sept. 10
Emergency Rate Increases for NFs Effective April 1 Extended Through End of Federally-Approved PHE <i>For updated guidance, see "Emergency Rate Increases for Nursing Facilities Effective April 1, 2020, Extended through End of Federally-approved PHE" notice published Nov. 19. This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	Sept. 2
Guidance: STAR Health Member’s Changing Primary Care Provider During the Public Health Emergency <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	Aug. 24
COVID-19 and Applicability of EPSDT for Some Adults <i>This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	Aug. 17
State Fiscal Year 2020 Texas Health Steps Timely Checkup Reports – Calculations During COVID-19 <i>This notice was not updated. As it states, timely checkup standards for SFY 2021 are reinstated starting November 1, 2020.</i>	Aug. 13
Clarification to “Procedure Code Addition and Update for Coronavirus (COVID-19)”	Aug. 10

<i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	
<p>Procedure Code Addition and Update for COVID-19</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "Clarification to "Procedure Code Addition and Update for Coronavirus (COVID-19)" notice published on Aug. 10. There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	July 13
<p>Reprocessing Guidance for COVID-19 Related Claims</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	July 6
<p>Emergency Rate Increases for the Nursing Facilities Effective Retroactive to April 1, 2020</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "Emergency Rate Increases for Nursing Facilities Effective April 1, 2020, Extended through End of Federally-approved PHE" notice published Nov. 19. This notice was not updated as the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	July 2
<p>Leveraging Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	June 27
<p>COVID-19 – Spell of Illness Limitation in STAR Health</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "Updated Information: COVID-19 – Spell of Illness Limitation in STAR Health" notice published on Sept. 17.</i></p>	June 4
<p>Spell of Illness Limitation and COVID-19</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "Updated Information: Spell of Illness Limitation and COVID-19" notice published on Sept. 17.</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 the extension details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</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. For updated guidance, see "Update: STAR Kids MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Releases: published Nov. 10</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

Money Follows the Person Process for Nursing Facility Residents <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 5
MCO COVID-19 Guidance: Telehealth for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy <i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i>	April 10