

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 October 31, 2021.

Key Details:

HHSC is updating many MCO Notices with guidance dates that expire October 31, 2021 to extend through November 30, 2021. HHSC also updated a few notices with flexibilities to extend through January 31, 2022.

The previously posted individual notices in TexConnect were updated to reflect the new extension dates.

The following flexibilities are now set to end:

Ending December 31, 2021:

- Suspend durable medical equipment signature requirement.
- Relaxation of timeframe requirements for new and initial prior authorization requests.

Ending February 28, 2022:

- Postpone all revalidation actions (including VDP pharmacy provider revalidation); and continue to allow postponement of revalidation screening including fingerprint-based criminal background checks, disclosures, site visits, and application fees.

Additional Information:

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 five tables of notices are:

MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through November 30, 2021:

- These Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through November 30, 2021. If the federal public health emergency ends sooner, HHSC will provide more information.

MCO Notices with Flexibilities Extended through December 31, 2021:

- These Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through December 31, 2021 because they include teleservices that are being analyzed in alignment with House Bill 4.

MCO Notices with Flexibilities Extended through January 31, 2022:

- These flexibilities have been extended through January 31, 2022. If the federal public health emergency ends sooner, HHSC will provide more information.

MCO Notices with Flexibilities to End or That Have Ended

- This includes flexibilities that:
 - Are ending on Dec. 31, 2021 and Feb. 28, 2022.
 - Have ended on July 31, 2020; October 23, 2020; November 30, 2020; December 31, 2020; May 10, 2021; June 30, 2021; July 31, 2021 and August 31, 2021.

Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices

- The notices in the table were not updated as the guidance either remains in effect until rescinded or the extension details remain the same. 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)

All MCOs & MMPs: Updated Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations

Background:

HHSC is issuing this guidance to Medicaid and CHIP MCOs and Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) to help ensure continuity of care during the COVID-19 response.

Key Details:

Effective immediately, Medicaid and CHIP MCOs and MMPs must move forward with processing new and initial prior authorization (PA) requests, including recertification requests, by relaxing document submission timeframes for providers if they are unable to provide certain required documentation **through December 31, 2021**.

Beginning with dates of service January 1, 2022 and after, all pre-COVID prior authorization timeframe and submission requirements will resume as outlined in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM). COVID flexibilities will no longer apply after December 31, 2021. Providers may refer to TMPPM Volume 1, Fee-for-Service Prior Authorizations, Section 5.4, "Submitting Prior Authorization Forms," to review prior authorization timeframe and submission requirements for prior authorizations submitted after December 31, 2021.

This guidance applies to all state plan services, including acute care and long-term services and supports such as personal assistance services, personal care services,

Community First Choice, private duty nursing, day activity and health services, and durable medical equipment and supplies. This guidance **does not** apply to dental services, facility services, and outpatient pharmacy services.

Examples of such documentation include, but are not limited to:

- TMPPM-required timely signatures from physicians and other providers,
- client signatures,
- up to date visit with primary care or ordering physician,
- and certification of timely face-to-face visits

Providers must submit the appropriate PA forms for requesting services, including:

- the procedure and diagnosis codes,
- applicable modifiers,
- dates of service,
- and numerical quantities for services requested

Forms must be submitted in a timely manner, complete to the greatest extent possible, and documentation must note the COVID-19 related issue(s) that prevents the provider from being able to submit required documents. Medical necessity-related documentation of clinical records to demonstrate patient status and progress specific to some services is still required. Such documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- letters of medical necessity,
- progress notes,
- therapy evaluations and re-evaluations,
- nursing plans of care and notes,
- and seating assessments, etc.

Failure to provide this documentation without a COVID-19 related explanation in the PA request is justification for the MCO to deny the requested service due to an inability to determine medical necessity.

Providers are expected to document and ensure the services being delivered are medically necessary. An MCO or MMP may request additional information if deemed necessary but may not deny PA requests if providers are unable to provide certain required documentation in a timely manner as outlined above. It is expected that the provider has obtained the appropriate required documentation for inclusion in the member's file before reimbursement is requested and will make it available to the MCO upon retrospective review. The services delivered may still be subject to retrospective review for medical necessity-related documentation. The MCO or MMP should review exceptions on a provider or member-specific basis.

If MCOs or MMPs implement a retrospective review process that impacts claims for PAs that were approved through **December 31, 2021**, MCOs may not recoup

solely on the basis that the provider did not fulfill all of the documentation requirements normally required for PA requests. However, the provider must be able to provide a documented justification that the service was medically necessary.

In addition, MCOs and MMPs must have a process to ensure network providers are aware of and have timely access to the PA information needed to bill appropriately and enter authorization information into the electronic visit verification (EVV) system prior to service delivery (for EVV-required services).

Additional Information:

A provider notice was also released and is available on the TMHP website.

Contact:

paula.clark@hhs.texas.gov

All MCOs & MMPs: Updated COVID-19 Guidance for MCOs regarding Durable Medical Equipment

Background:

HHSC is issuing this guidance to Medicaid MCOs to help ensure continuity of care in response to COVID-19.

Key Details:

Effective immediately, MCOs may not require Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers to obtain the member or member's guardian signature on DME Certification and Receipt Forms. This guidance remains in effect **through December 31, 2021.**

Beginning with dates of service on or after January 1, 2022, this COVID-19 flexibility will end, and the client or guardian signature requirement for the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Certification and Receipt Form will resume. HHSC will provide more information if there are changes

Additional Information:

A DME provider notice was also released and is available on the [TMHP website](#).

Resources:

<https://www.tmhp.com/news/2020-05-07-waiver-extension-dme-certification-and-receipt-form>

MCO Notices Extension Updates

Updates made October 26, 2021

MCO Notices Updated with Extensions Through November 30, 2021*

The following Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through November 30, 2021. If the federal public health emergency ends sooner, HHSC will provide more information.

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Guidance Regarding Third Party Resources for STAR Health Member	Aug. 24, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance: Temporarily Allow Verbal Consent from Members on Service Plans & Related Forms	June 17, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance: Oral Requests for an Appeal	March 26, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance: Fair Hearing Request Extensions	March 26, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance: Fair Hearing Determination Extensions	March 26, 2020
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Appeal and Continuation of Benefit Request Extensions</p> <p><i>The flexibility to extend deadlines that requires a person to request continuation of benefits from 10 days to 30 days ended June 30, 2021. A new notice with updated guidance was posted June 3, 2021 titled "Update to COVID-19 Guidance: Continuation of Benefit Request Extension to End June 30, 2021".</i></p> <p><i>The content in the March 26 notice also lists a flexibility to extend the timeframe to 90 days for a member to request an internal appeal – this flexibility has NOT been determined to end at this time.</i></p>	March 26, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance for the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Option	March 24, 2020

MCO Notices with Flexibilities Extended through December 31, 2021

HHSC is extending the following flexibilities through December 31, 2021, because they include teleservices that are being analyzed in alignment with House Bill 4.

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Resumption of In Person Assessments & Service Coordination Visits: Assessment Reporting Amendments	July 29, 2021
Resumption of In-Person Assessments & Service Coordination Visits <i>The Sept. 1 effective date in this notice is accurate, and the overall guidance continues to be in effect. For additional guidance, see "Resumption of In Person Assessments & Service Coordination Visits: Assessment Reporting Amendments" posted July 29, 2021.</i>	June 14, 2021
Texas Health Steps Recipient Reminder Letters for Telemedicine Medical Checkups	Jan. 21, 2021
Updated Guidance-Completing Initial Assessments & Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plan <i>For updated guidance, see "Updated Guidance-Completing Initial Assessments & Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plan" notice published June 14, 2021.</i>	Oct. 27, 2020
STAR+PLUS HCBS Only: Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments	Oct. 27, 2020
STAR Kids MDCP Only: Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments	Oct. 27, 2020
Completing Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plans <i>For updated guidance, see "Updated Guidance-Completing Initial Assessments & Reassessments for Expiring Individual Service Plan" notice published Oct. 27, 2020.</i>	Sept. 21, 2020
New Guidance: THSteps Medical Checkups via Remote Delivery During Implementing COVID-19 Restrictions	May 11, 2020
COVID-19: Service-Level Changes Resulting from Telehealth and Telephonic Visits	May 7, 2020
MCO COVID-19 Guidance: Telehealth for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy	April 10, 2020
Add Rural Health Clinics as Telehealth and Telemedicine Sites	March 27, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance: Face to Face Visits and Service Coordination/Case Management <i>The flexibility to suspend service coordination requirements for face-to-face visits, offering telehealth or telephonic service coordination instead, when appropriate, ended August 31, 2021. For updated guidance, view the June 14, 2021 notice titled "Resumption of In-Person Assessments & Service Coordination Visits".</i>	March 26, 2020
Telehealth for Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapies	March 24, 2020
Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Behavioral Health Services	March 20, 2020

Claims for Telephone (Audio-Only) Medical Services	March 20, 2020
--	----------------

MCO Notices with Flexibilities Extended through January 31, 2022

HHSC is extending the following flexibilities through January 31, 2022. If the federal public health emergency ends sooner, HHSC will provide more information.

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Updated Guidance: CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	June 8, 2020
CHIP Office Visit Co-Payments, Updated Reimbursement Process	May 18, 2020
Waiver of CHIP Copayments	March 23, 2020

MCO Notices with Flexibilities to End or That Have Ended

Flexibility Ending Feb. 28, 2022

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
<p>Provider Enrollment Requirement Waivers due to COVID-19</p> <p><i>The flexibility to use the Texas Medicaid Public Health Emergency provider enrollment application in place of the standard provider enrollment application ended July 31, 2021. For more information, view the MCO Notice published in TexConnect on July 15, 2021 titled "Public Health Emergency Enrollment Application Will No Longer be Available for Use".</i></p> <p><i>The content in the April 2, 2020 notice also lists a flexibility to extend revalidation due dates for currently enrolled providers – this flexibility will end Feb. 28, 2022, and a new MCO Notice with more details will be to TexConnect posted soon.</i></p>	April 2, 2020

Flexibility Ending Dec. 31, 2021

Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Updated COVID-19 Guidance for MCOs regarding Durable Medical Equipment	Oct. 26, 2021
Updated Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations	Oct. 26, 2021
Guidance for MCOs and MMPs Regarding New and Initial Prior Authorizations	June 29, 2020
COVID-19 Guidance for MCOs regarding Durable Medical Equipment	March 24, 2020

Flexibility Ended Aug. 31, 2021	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Provider Enrollment Application Waivers to End	Aug. 12, 2021
End of Flexibility: STAR Kids Assessment Extensions	Aug. 5, 2021
<p>Action Needed: Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance: Eligibility, Enrollment, & EPSDT Benefits</p> <p><i>Approved July 22, 2021, all STAR Kids age outs who were extended under the PHE completed their transitions effective August 1, 2021. Individuals ageing out starting in May 2021 are following normal timelines and processes. For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice posted to TexConnect on Aug. 5, 2021 titled "End of Flexibility: STAR Kids Assessment Extensions". The other guidance listed in the notice remains in effect until further information is provided.</i></p>	Feb. 12, 2021
<p>Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance - Age Out Transitions and Waiver Terminations</p> <p><i>Approved July 22, 2021, all STAR Kids age outs who were extended under the PHE completed their transitions effective August 1, 2021. Individuals ageing out starting in May 2021 are following normal timelines and processes. For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice posted to TexConnect on Aug. 5, 2021 titled "End of Flexibility: STAR Kids Assessment Extensions". The other guidance listed in the notice remains in effect until further information is provided.</i></p>	Jan. 29, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Face to Face Visits and Service Coordination/Case Management</p> <p><i>The flexibility to suspend service coordination requirements for face-to-face visits, offering telehealth or telephonic service coordination instead, when appropriate, ended August 31, 2021. For updated guidance, view the June 14, 2021 notice titled "Resumption of In-Person Assessments & Service Coordination Visits".</i></p>	March 26, 2020
Flexibility Ended July 31, 2021	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
COVID-19 Early Refills and 90-day Supply Information	Aug. 16, 2021
Public Health Emergency Enrollment Application Will No Longer be Available for Use	July 15, 2021
HHSC Reinstates NAP Designations with July 29 PDL Implementation	July 1, 2021
<p>NAP Status Ended on Daily Formulary File for Non-Preferred Drugs Effective April 26</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice published to TexConnect on July 1, 2021 titled "HHSC Reinstates NAP Designations with July 29 PDL Implementation".</i></p>	April 27, 2020
No Signature Required for Prescription Drug Delivery	April 20, 2020
Provider Enrollment Requirement Waivers due to COVID-19	April 2, 2020

<p><i>The flexibility to use the Texas Medicaid Public Health Emergency provider enrollment application in place of the standard provider enrollment application ended July 31, 2021. For more information, view the MCO Notice published in TexConnect on July 15, 2021 titled "Public Health Emergency Enrollment Application Will No Longer be Available for Use".</i></p> <p><i>The content in the April 2, 2020 notice also lists a flexibility to extend revalidation due dates for currently enrolled providers – this flexibility will end Feb. 28, 2022, and a new MCO Notice with more details will be posted to TexConnect soon.</i></p>	
<p>Pharmacy Benefit Updates Related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice published to TexConnect on Aug. 16, 2021 titled "COVID-19 Early Refills and 90-day Supply Information".</i></p>	March 20, 2020
Flexibility Ended June 30, 2021	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
Update to COVID-19 Guidance: Continuation of Benefit Request Extension to End June 30, 2021	June 3, 2021
HHSC to Resume Quarterly Specialty Drug List in July 2021	May 17, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Appeal and Continuation of Benefit Request Extensions</p> <p><i>The flexibility to extend deadlines that requires a person to request continuation of benefits from 10 days to 30 days ended June 30, 2021. A new notice with updated guidance was posted June 3, 2021 titled "Update to COVID-19 Guidance: Continuation of Benefit Request Extension to End June 30, 2021".</i></p> <p><i>The content in the March 26 notice also lists a flexibility to extend the timeframe to 90 days for a member to request an internal appeal – this flexibility has NOT been determined to end at this time.</i></p>	March 26, 2020
<p>Specialty Drug List from Quarter Four (December 2019) Remains in Effect</p> <p><i>The current SDL will remain in effect until June 30, 2021 or until rescinded. The July 2021 SDL publication will resume and a new notice with updated guidance was posted May 17, 2021 titled "HHSC to Resume Quarterly Specialty Drug List in July 2021".</i></p>	May 22, 2020
Flexibility Ended May 10, 2021	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
End of COVID-19 MDS Authorization Extensions for Nursing Facility Providers	April 27, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Nursing Facility MDS Authorization Extensions</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "End of COVID-19 MDS Authorization Extensions for Nursing Facility Providers" notice posted on April 27, 2021.</i></p>	April 9, 2020
Flexibilities Ended December 31, 2020	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:

Temporary EVV Policies for COVID-19 to end Dec. 31, 2020	Nov. 24, 2020
90-Day Prior Authorization Extensions to End Dec. 31. 2020	Nov. 24, 2020
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, 2020
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, 2020
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, 2020
Clarification: 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 3, 2020
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, 2020
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, 2020
Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care Provider Re-credentialing – COVID-19: Revised Due Date Extensions <i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended Dec. 31, 2020.</i>	July 16, 2020
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, 2020
Flexibilities Ended November 30, 2020	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
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, 2020
Flexibilities Ended October 23, 2020	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:

<p>THSteps Medical and Dental Checkups during COVID-19</p> <p><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></p>	April 17, 2020
Flexibilities Ended July 31, 2020	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
<p>COVID-19: MCO Appeal Determination Extension Reporting</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended July 31, 2020.</i></p>	May 5, 2020
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: MCO Appeal Determinations</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the flexibility ended July 31, 2020.</i></p>	March 26, 2020

Information on Other COVID-19 MCO Notices	
Title of MCO Notice:	Issued On:
<p>Updating Pharmacy Claims Systems for COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Booster Doses</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Oct. 21, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Code 0004A Now a Medicaid Benefit</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Oct. 18, 2021
<p>Gathering Information Regarding Reinstatement of CHIP Co-payments</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Sept. 24, 2021
<p>HHSC Issues Stromectol (ivermectin) Guidance</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Sept. 23, 2021
<p>October 2021 MDCP Interest List Release Count by Service Area</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Sept. 23, 2021
<p>Pay-for-Quality Program Suspended for Measurement Year 2021</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Sept. 23, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Code M0201 Now a Benefit</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i></p>	Sept. 16, 2021
<p>Update to COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Administration Code M0243</p>	Sept. 7, 2021

<i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	
Updating Pharmacy Claim Systems for COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Doses <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Sept. 2, 2021
Outreach for Members Denied Supplemental Security Income <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Sept. 2, 2021
COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes 0003A and 0013A Are Now Benefits <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Aug. 24, 2021
Amended: MCO Recoupments Related to Temporary EVV COVID-19 Policies <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Aug. 23, 2021
Update to COVID-19 Testing Billing <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Aug. 9, 2021
Unannounced Visit Policy Repealed <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	Aug. 2, 2021
Addition of Procedure Codes M0247, Q0247 and Q0244 Approved for Treatment of COVID-19 Through EAU <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	July 19, 2021
COVID-19 Reimbursement Strategy Update <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	June 24, 2021
Home Health Agencies Will Be Reimbursed for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	June 17, 2021
MCO Recoupments Related to Temporary EVV COVID-19 Policies <i>For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice in TexConnect titled "Amended: MCO Recoupments Related to Temporary EVV COVID-19 Policies" published on Aug. 23, 2021.</i>	June 17, 2021
Update to Procedure Code S8301 for Infection Control Supplies <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	June 10, 2021
COVID-19 CHIP Renewals <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	June 7, 2021
CLIA Update: QW Modifier Required for COVID-19 Testing Procedure Code 87636	June 1, 2021

<i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	
Administration of COVID-19 Vaccination for Medicaid Members who are Homebound <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect.</i>	May 27, 2021
Directed Payment Programs and COVID-19 Claims <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 13, 2021
Medicaid Allows Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 13, 2021
COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 11, 2021
Pfizer National Drug Codes (NDCs) for COVID-19 Vaccine <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 10, 2021
COVID-19 Related Processing Delays Resulting in Blank Enrollment Files <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same.</i>	May 6, 2021
Proposed COVID-19 Treatment Reimbursement Strategy Update <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	May 3, 2021
Updated COVID-19 Lab Procedure Codes Eligible for Reimbursement to Pharmacists & Pharmacy Providers <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	April 26, 2021
COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes for FQHCs and RHCs <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	April 19, 2021
COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Rate Change Effective April 1 <i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i>	April 1, 2021
STAR Health CANS 2.0 Assessment Available Via Telehealth	March 29, 2021

<p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same. As the notice states, the flexibility became a permanent policy effective April 1, 2021.</i></p>	
<p>Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Procedure Codes Q0245 and M0245 Approved for COVID-19 Treatment</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	March 18, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Test & Diagnostic Reimbursement Strategy Update</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	March 15, 2021
<p>Medicaid Adds Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine to Formulary</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	March 9, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccine Administration Procedure Codes</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	March 4, 2021
<p>Action Needed: Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance: Eligibility, Enrollment, & EPSDT Benefits</p> <p><i>Approved July 22, 2021, all STAR Kids age outs who were extended under the PHE completed their transitions effective August 1, 2021. Individuals ageing out starting in May 2021 are following normal timelines and processes. For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice posted to TexConnect on Aug. 5, 2021 titled "End of Flexibility: STAR Kids Assessment Extensions". The other guidance listed in the notice remains in effect until further information is provided.</i></p>	Feb. 12, 2021
<p>Suspension of Out-of-Network Limits for COVID-19 Vaccine</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Feb. 11, 2021
<p>Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance - Age Out Transitions and Waiver Terminations</p> <p><i>Approved July 22, 2021, all STAR Kids age outs who were extended under the PHE completed their transitions effective August 1, 2021. Individuals ageing out starting in May 2021 are following normal timelines and processes. For updated guidance, view the MCO Notice posted to TexConnect on Aug. 5, 2021 titled "End of Flexibility: STAR Kids Assessment Extensions". The other guidance listed in the notice remains in effect until further information is provided.</i></p>	Jan. 29, 2021
<p>Suspension of Unannounced Visit Requirement</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see "Unannounced Visit Policy Repealed" notice posted on Aug. 2, 2021.</i></p>	Jan. 25, 2021
<p>Emergency Extensions for Optometry Provider License Renewals</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>	Jan. 14, 2021

<p>Approved COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Materials for Providers and Members</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the details remain the same and the guidance is in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Jan. 11, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Test & Diagnostic Reimbursement Strategy – Update</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded. For additional information, see the notice titled "COVID-19 Test & Diagnostic Reimbursement Strategy Update" published on March 15, 2021."</i></p>	Jan. 11, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine NDC Formulary Update</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Jan. 7, 2021
<p>Additional Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Procedure Codes Approved for COVID-19 Treatment</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Jan. 4, 2021
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Includes Moderna</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 23, 2020
<p>Coverage of Casirivimab and Imdevimab under Emergency Use Authorization</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 23, 2020
<p>COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Information</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Dec. 21, 2020
<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. 21, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020

<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<p>Update: STAR Kids MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Releases</p> <p><i>STAR+PLUS HCBS interest list releases resumed in Feb. 2021. View the MCO Notice posted on Jan. 21, 2021 titled "February 2021 STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Release Counts by Service Area". MDCP interest list release resumed in Oct. 2021. View the MCO Notice posted on Sept. 23, 2021 titled "October 2021 MDCP Interest List Release Count by Service Area".</i></p>	Nov. 10, 2020
<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, 2020
<p>Certain COVID-19 Procedure Codes Implemented Retroactively – Clarification</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Oct. 8, 2020
<p>Aug. 4 MCO Notice Retracted: Updated Information on COVID-19 Medicaid Renewals</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>	Oct. 6, 2020
<p>New Value Point of Origin for Admission of Visit Code "G," In Use Beginning July 1, 2020</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Oct. 1, 2020
<p>Updated Information: Spell of Illness Limitation and COVID-19</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Sept. 17, 2020
<p>Updated Information: COVID-19 – Spell of Illness Limitation in STAR Health</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated as the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Sept. 17, 2020
<p>Certain COVID-19 Procedure Codes Implemented Retroactively</p> <p><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></p>	Sept. 10, 2020

<p>Emergency Rate Increases for NFs Effective April 1 Extended Through End of Federally-Approved PHE</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>	Sept. 2, 2020
<p>Guidance: STAR Health Member's Changing Primary Care Provider During the Public Health Emergency</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>	Aug. 24, 2020
<p>COVID-19 and Applicability of EPSDT for Some Adults</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>	Aug. 17, 2020
<p>State Fiscal Year 2020 Texas Health Steps Timely Checkup Reports – Calculations During COVID-19</p> <p><i>This notice was not updated. As it states, timely checkup standards for SFY reinstated starting November 1, 2020.</i></p>	Aug. 13, 2020
<p>Clarification to "Procedure Code Addition and Update for Coronavirus (COVID-19)"</p> <p><i>There is not an end date on this notice and the guidance remains in effect until rescinded.</i></p>	Aug. 10, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<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, 2020

<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, 2020
<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, 2020
<p>Two MCO Notices Retracted: April 3, 2020 MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Releases</p> <p><i>STAR+PLUS HCBS interest list releases resumed in Feb. 2021. View the MCO Notice posted on Jan. 21, 2021 titled "February 2021 STAR+PLUS HCBS Interest List Release Counts by Service Area". MDCP interest list release resumed in Oct. 2021. View the MCO Notice posted on Sept. 23, 2021 titled "October 2021 MDCP Interest List Release Count by Service Area".</i></p>	May 28, 2020
<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, 2020
<p>Money Follows the Person Process for Nursing Facility Residents</p> <p><i>Effective July 31, 2021, this flexibility is no longer needed as it is allowable under current MFP policy.</i></p>	May 5, 2020
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: STAR Kids Age-Outs that Transitioned on April 1, 2020</p> <p><i>For updated guidance, see the notice titled "Action Needed: Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance: Eligibility, Enrollment, & EPSDT Benefits" posted on Feb. 12, 2021, and the notice titled "Compliance with New CMS COVID-19 Guidance - Age Out Transitions and Waiver Terminations" posted on Jan. 29, 2021.</i></p>	April 23, 2020
<p>COVID-19 Guidance: Amend the GR Process for Services that Exceed the Program Cost Limit</p> <p><i>Effective September 1, 2021, HHSC is permanently allowing desk reviews as the ongoing process and will allow for face-to-face reviews by exception.</i></p>	March 26, 2020