



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
January 6, 2022**



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Stakeholder Session Update

- *Beginning May 6, 2021, HHSC will post pre-recorded sessions monthly.*
- *These sessions will continue to share information with stakeholders about the implementation of various Medicaid/CHIP flexibilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *HHSC may return to weekly sessions as needed if there are changes to the public health emergency.*





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Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities COVID-19 Updates

Erica Brown, *Director*, Office of Policy

Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities Extensions

- Many Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities are extended through January 31, 2022, unless the federal Public Health Emergency ends sooner.
- This includes many teleservices that are being analyzed in alignment with House Bill 4 and the flexibility waiving office visit copayments for all CHIP members.



Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities Extensions

- **Reminder:** Effective February 1, 2022, FMSAs can permanently conduct new employer orientations virtually (i.e. audio-visual) in addition to continuing to allow for in-person orientations based on the CDS employer's preference.



Medicaid & CHIP

Flexibilities Extensions

- A notice with updated guidance and more detailed information will be published in early 2022.
 - Use of audio-only for employer orientations allowed as a COVID-19 flexibility will not become a permanent policy.
 - FMSAs should provide employer orientations that are scheduled through January 31, 2022 virtually, by telephone, audio-visual, or in person if that is the person's preference.
 - After January 31, 2022, all employer orientations must be done using either an audio-visual platform or in-person, based on the preference of the CDS employer.



Medicaid & CHIP

Flexibilities (cont.)

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>)



House Bill 4 (1 of 5)

- HHSC is analyzing the clinical and cost effectiveness of COVID-19 Medicaid and CHIP teleservices flexibilities to align with House Bill 4 (87th Regular Legislative Session, 2021) requirements.
- Building on Senate Bill 670 from the 86th Regular Legislative Session which prohibits Medicaid health plans from denying reimbursement for audio-visual telemedicine or telehealth services solely because the service was delivered remotely, HB 4 will further expand access to care for Medicaid members.



House Bill 4 (2 of 5)

- HB 4 implementation is being completed in phases based on the complexity of the clinical and cost effectiveness analysis and to allow opportunities for stakeholder input.
 - HHSC will publish interim guidance for MCOs and providers as these factors are considered and regulatory documents finalized.



House Bill 4 (3 of 5)

Expected Timeline

- **Phase I: Analysis - Winter 2022**
 - HHSC will release guidance about certain services that are approved for telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods on an ongoing basis.
 - HHSC will initiate draft rules and other policy updates.



House Bill 4 (4 of 5)

Expected Timeline

- **Phase II: Analysis - Spring 2022**
 - HHSC will ask stakeholders for input about additional services that were available for remote delivery during the PHE to help determine whether permanent telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods would be cost-effective and clinically appropriate.
 - HHSC will release guidance about additional services that are approved for telemedicine, telehealth, and audio-only delivery methods.



House Bill 4 (5 of 5)

Expected Timeline

- **Phase III: Rulemaking - Summer 2022**
 - Rules required by legislation will be posted for public comment.
- **Phase IV: Finalizing Policy -Fall 2022**
 - HHSC expects to finalize formal policy changes after providing an opportunity for stakeholder input on posted rules and policies. Guidance will be posted on HHSC's website when available.
- HHSC created a new teleservices website that will be updated throughout the implementation process.
<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/provider-information/medicaid-chip-teleservices>



CHIP Perinatal Members Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine

- Effective December 11, 2020, CHIP Perinate members enrolled in CHIP Perinatal services are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- This includes the following procedure codes: 0001A, 0002A, 0011A, 0012A, 0031A.
- Providers will only be reimbursed for the vaccine administration.
 - The vaccine is provided to them free of charge, so those codes (91300, 91301, and 91303) will process as informational only.





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COVID-19 Updates

Rachel Roedl, *PS V*, Medical Benefits

COVID-19 Updates (1 of 7)

Eligibility Changes for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

- On November 19, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorizations (EUA) for both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, allowing use of a single booster dose for all individuals 18 years of age or older.
- On November 29, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that everyone age 18 or older should get a booster dose six months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna series or two months after their initial Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine.



COVID-19 Updates (2 of 7)

Eligibility Changes for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

- The booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech (procedure code 0004A) or Moderna (procedure code 0064A) COVID-19 vaccine should be administered at least six months after completion of the primary vaccination series.
 - The booster dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (procedure code 0034A) COVID-19 vaccine should be administered at least two months after completion of the single-dose primary regimen



COVID-19 Updates (3 of 7)

Eligibility Changes for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

- As a reminder, a previous amendment to the FDA EUA for booster administration allows the use of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines as a heterologous (“mix-and-match”) booster dose in eligible individuals after completion of the primary vaccination with a different COVID-19 vaccine.



COVID-19 Updates (4 of 7)

Eligibility Changes for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

- For more information, visit <https://dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1129-booster-recommendations.html>.
- Providers interested in enrolling as a COVID-19 vaccinator should visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/provider-information.aspx>.
- For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 800-925-9126.



COVID-19 Updates (5 of 7)

Updated Age Ranges for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Procedure Codes M0245 and M0246 Approved Through Emergency Use Authorization

- Effective December 3, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revised the emergency use authorization (EUA) of bamlanivimab and etesevimab (previously authorized for pediatric patients 12 years and older weighing at least 40 kilograms, or about 88 pounds) to additionally authorize bamlanivimab and etesevimab administered together for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in all younger patients, including newborns, who have a positive COVID-19 test and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.



COVID-19 Updates (6 of 7)

Updated Age Ranges for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Procedure Codes M0245 and M0246 Approved Through Emergency Use Authorization

- The revision also authorizes bamlanivimab and etesevimab to be administered together for post-exposure prophylaxis for prevention of COVID-19 in all pediatric patients, including newborns, at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.



COVID-19 Updates (7 of 7)

Updated Age Ranges for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Procedure Codes M0245 and M0246 Approved Through Emergency Use Authorization

- Affected claims that have dates of service from December 3, 2021, through December 9, 2021, will be reprocessed.
 - Providers may receive an additional payment, which will be reflected on future Remittance and Status Reports.
 - Providers are not required to appeal the claims unless the claims are denied for additional reasons after the reprocessing is complete.
- For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 800-925-9126 or the TMHP-CSHCN Services Program Contact Center at 800-568-2413.





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LTCR Updates

Diana Conces, *Director*

LTCR Policy, Rules & Training

Regulatory Updates

Rules

- Emergency rules for ICF/IID COVID-19 mitigation and response reissued (12/7)
- Emergency rules for ICF COVID-19 vaccination reporting extended (12/9)
- Emergency rules for ALF COVID-19 visitation extended (12/18)
- Emergency rules for HCS COVID-19 response and visitation extended (12/19)
- Emergency rules for NF/ALF COVID-19 vaccination reporting reissued (1/6)
- **Permanent** rules for temporary nurse aide certification effective (12/26)



Guidance

- [ALF COVID-19 FAQs](#) updated 12/3
- ICF/IID COVID-19 [Response Plan](#) and [FAQs](#) updated 12/7
- [DAHS COVID-19 FAQs](#) updated 12/13
- [Guidance for LTC Facilities Experiencing Staffing Shortages](#) (revised 1/5)



Webinars

- [ICF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar](#): 1/10 @ 11 am
- [NF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar](#): 1/12 @ 2:30 pm
- [ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar](#): 1/12 @ 11 am
- [Infection Control in LTC Facilities](#): 1/18 @ 1:30 pm
- [Emergency Preparedness in HCSSAs](#): 1/25 @ 2 pm



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:
February 3, 2022**