



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
November 4, 2021**



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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

- Many Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through **November 30, 2021**, unless the federal Public Health Emergency ends sooner.
 - HHSC will provide more information if there are changes.
- Other 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.



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>)





COVID-19 Updates

COVID 19 Guidance for New and Initial Medicaid Prior Authorizations – TMHP Notice Posted October 25, 2021

- To help ensure continuity of care during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) response, HHSC directed TMHP and MCOs to move forward with processing new and initial prior authorization requests, including recertification requests, by relaxing document submission timeframes for providers if they are unable to provide certain required documentation during the COVID-19 emergency.
 - **This direction will remain in effect through December 31, 2021.**



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- 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)* and MCO policies.
- 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 fee-for-service prior authorizations submitted after December 31, 2021.



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- This guidance applies to all state plan services, including:
 - Acute care services
 - Long-term services and supports
 - Personal assistance services
 - Personal care services
 - Community First Choice
 - Private duty nursing
 - Day activity and health services
 - Durable medical equipment and supplies
- Reference: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-10-25-covid-19-guidance-new-and-initial-medicaid-prior-authorizations-0>



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

Medicaid DME Certification and Receipt Form COVID-19 Flexibility Extended Through December 31, 2021 – TMHP Notice Posted October 25, 2021

- To help ensure continuity of care during the COVID-19 response, the requirement to obtain the client or guardian signature on the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Certification and Receipt Form was waived beginning in March 2020.
 - [This direction will remain in effect through December 31, 2021](#) for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- 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.
- Please refer to the [Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Volume 2, Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies](#), Section 2.2.2, “Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies,” for more information about DME Certification and Receipt Form requirements for services after December 31, 2021.
- Reference: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-10-25-medicare-dme-certification-and-receipt-form-covid-19-flexibility-extended-through>





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Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities

KJ Scheib, *Deputy Associate Commissioner*
Operations

Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities

Provider Revalidation - Ending February 28, 2022

- Flexibility to 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 is ending.
- Providers originally due for revalidation from 3/1/2020 to 2/28/2022 will be given a grace period to complete the revalidation process.
- Providers will be notified in January 2022 of their new revalidation due date and again 120 days prior to the revalidation date.



Revalidation

- Providers can view their enrollment information through the Provider Information Management System (PIMS) and after December 2021 in the new Provider Enrollment and Management System (PEMS).
- To reduce delays in application processing during the revalidation process, providers are encouraged to update the following data elements prior to submitting a revalidation application:
 - First and last name
 - Organization name
 - Social Security number
 - Date of birth
 - Employer's Tax Identification Number and legal name



Revalidation – Links

- Providers can refer to the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) [Provider Information Management System \(PIMS\) User Guide](#) for information on how to use this tool.
- Additional information related to PEMS is available on the TMHP website: [The Benefits of PEMS](#)





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Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities COVID-19 Updates

Rachel Roedl, *PS V*, Medical Benefits

COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

Additional Provider Types and Places of Service Added for Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Administration Codes M0240, M0241, M0243, and M0244 – TMHP Notice Posted October 27, 2021

- Effective for dates of service on or after September 9, 2021, monoclonal antibody therapy administration codes (procedure codes M0240, M0241, M0243, and M0244) will be payable to additional provider types and places of service.
- This update is in response to the amended COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act declaration to allow pharmacists to order and administer selected COVID-19 therapeutics, including subcutaneous monoclonal antibodies (mAbs).



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- Pharmacists and pharmacies may now be reimbursed for procedure codes M0240, M0241, M0243, and M0244 rendered in the office, home, nursing home (skilled nursing facility/extended care facility), and intermediate care facility.
- Procedure codes M0240 and M0243 are now payable for the following settings and provider types:

Place of Service	Provider Type
Office	Pharmacist, Pharmacy
Nursing Home (SNF / ICF)	Pharmacist
Nursing Home (ECF)	Pharmacist



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- Procedure codes M0241 and M0244 are now payable for the following setting and provider type:

Place of Service	Provider Type
Home	Pharmacist

- Affected claims with dates of service on or after Sept. 9, 2021 will be reprocessed, and providers may receive additional payment.
 - Additional payments will be reflected on future Remittance and Status (R&S) Reports.
 - Providers are not required to appeal the claims unless they are denied for additional reasons after the claims reprocessing is complete.
- Reference: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-10-27-additional-provider-types-and-places-service-added-monoclonal-antibody-therapy>



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Procedure Code 0004A is Now a Benefit – TMHP Notice Posted October 15, 2021

- Effective for dates of service on or after September 22, 2021, in accordance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amendment to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), COVID-19 vaccine administration code 0004A is now a benefit of Medicaid, Healthy Texas Women (HTW), Family Planning Program (FPP), and the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program.
- Procedure code 0004A, the booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, should be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- The FDA amendment to the EUA allows for the use of a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, at least six months after completion of the primary series in:
 - Individuals 65 years of age and older
 - Long-term care facility residents
 - Individuals 18 through 64 years of age with underlying medical conditions
 - Individuals 18 through 64 years of age at increased risk for exposure and transmission due to occupational or institutional setting
- For more information, visit <https://dshs.texas.gov/covidvaccine/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- Procedure code 0004A is a Medicaid, HTW, and FPP benefit for the following providers and places of service:

Place of Service	Provider Type
Office	Physician Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Physician, Pharmacist, Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Federally qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC), Nephrology (Hemodialysis, Renal Dialysis), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), Pharmacy
Home	PA, NP, CNS, Physician, Home Health Agency, CCP Provider
Outpatient Hospitals	FQHCs, Hospitals, Nephrology (Hemodialysis, Renal Dialysis), Renal Dialysis Facility, RHCs
Other Locations	PA, NP, CNS, Physician, FQHCs, CCP Providers, RHCs



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- Procedure code 0004A is a CSHCN Services Program benefit for the following providers and places of service:

Place of Service	Provider Type
Office	PA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), Physician, Pharmacist, CCP Provider, Nephrology (Hemodialysis, Renal Dialysis), Pharmacy
Home	PA, APRN, Physician, CCP Provider
Outpatient Hospitals	Nephrology (Hemodialysis, Renal Dialysis), Hospital Providers
Other Locations	PA, APRN, Physician, CCP Providers



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- Procedure code M0201 (COVID-19 vaccine administration inside a patient's home) can be billed in the Home setting with procedure code 0004A, as of September 22, 2021.
- Affected claims with dates of service on or after September 22, 2021, will be reprocessed, and providers may receive additional payment.
 - Additional payments will be reflected on future Remittance and Status (R&S) Reports.
 - Providers are not required to appeal the claims unless they are denied for additional reasons after the claims reprocessing is complete.



COVID-19 Updates (cont.)

- 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** or
 - The TMHP-CSHCN Services Program Contact Center at **800-568-2413**.
- Reference: <https://www.tmhp.com/news/2021-10-15-covid-19-vaccine-administration-procedure-code-0004a-now-benefit>





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LTCR Updates

Diana Conces, *Director*

LTCR Policy, Rules & Training

LTCR Updates

LTCR Rules Updates

- ICF/IID visitation: 10/20
- Inpatient hospice visitation: 10/20
- ICF/IID mitigation, 60-day extension: 10/7
- Permanent nurse aide flexibilities rules: [informal comment](#) until 11/9



LTCR Updates

LTCR Updates

- Updated FAQs: ICF (10/5 and 10/29), HCSSA (10/15), NF (10/28), ALF (10/29)
- Updated COVID-19 Response Plans: ICF (10/5 and 10/29), ALF (10/29)
- [Alert](#), 10/4: Preparing for Flu during COVID-19
- [Alert](#), 11/3: FDA Caution about Imported Gloves



LTCR Updates

LTCR Webinars

- COVID-19 FAQ Webinars:
 - [NF](#) (11/10)
 - [ALF](#) (11/10)
 - [ICF](#) (12/6)
- Joint Training, 11/30: [PPE: A Shield Against Infection](#)



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:
December 2, 2021**