



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

January 25, 2012

To: Community Living Assistance and Support Services Case Management Agencies
Community Living Assistance and Support Services Direct Service Agencies
Home and Community-based Services providers
Texas Home Living providers
Consumer Directed Services Agencies and
Local Authorities

Subject: Information Letter No. 12-10
Implementation of Expanded Utilization Review Activities

The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) is expanding utilization management and review (UMR) activities for its Medicaid community entitlement and waiver programs effective January 1, 2012. Utilization review in DADS waiver programs is required by the 2010-11 General Appropriations Act (Article II, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Rider 36, S.B. 1, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009), and by the 2012-2013 General Appropriations Act (Article II, Special Provisions Relating to all Health and Human Services Agencies, Section 56b).

DADS has been conducting limited utilization review (UR) activities in the waivers serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In November 2011, DADS initiated the pilot phase of concurrent (sampled), face-to-face utilization review activities for the Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), Home and Community-based Services (HCS) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) waiver programs. The pilot phase ended December 2011.

UMR field staff will begin the expanded UR activities, as described in information letter (IL) 10-142, effective January 2012, on a randomly selected sample for the CLASS, HCS and TxHmL waiver programs. The UMR field staff will be contacting waiver providers and the individuals the provider serves, who have been selected as part of the random sample to coordinate concurrent, face-to-face interviews with the individuals, and to conduct a review of provider records.

Utilization reviews of applicable level of need determinations for individuals in the HCS and TxHmL waiver programs and full implementation of prospective (pre-authorization) face-to-face reviews in all IDD waiver programs, has been delayed until the summer of 2012. However, prospective reviews could be done at any time based on a request from UMR Program Enrollment staff for a face-to-face visit to determine appropriateness of requested services.

If you have any questions about the implementation of the utilization review activities Geneve Monreal, Manager, IDD Waiver UR, serves as the lead on this matter and can be reached by email at geneve.monreal@dads.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 438-5003.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Cathryn Horton, Director
Utilization Management and Review/Program Enrollment

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