



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

Date: August 29, 2016

To: Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Providers
Financial Management Service Agencies (FMSAs)

Subject: Information Letter No. 16-34
Billing Process for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Providers Transitioning to STAR Kids and STAR Health

With the STAR Kids Medicaid Managed Care Program effective November 1, 2016, most individuals enrolled in the MDCP will receive their Medicaid state plan services and MDCP waiver services through a STAR Kids or STAR Health managed care organization (MCO) in their service delivery area. Individuals enrolled in MDCP who will turn age 21 on or before January 31, 2017, will continue to receive MDCP services through fee-for-service until they transition out of MDCP into the STAR+PLUS waiver program as described below. Beginning February 1, 2017, all MDCP waiver services will be delivered through managed care.

Changes Affecting Individuals Receiving MDCP

Individual plans of care (IPCs) which end August 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017, will be extended for a year and reflected in the Medicaid Eligibility Service Authorization Verification (MESAV) application. Because providers and FMSAs will not receive service authorization forms from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) for these IPC extensions, providers and FMSAs are encouraged to check IPC status through MESAV. MCOs must continue to honor each MDCP member's existing IPC until they complete a new assessment and develop a new STAR Kids individual service plan that includes MDCP services.

Contracts and Provider Payments

On November 1, 2016, STAR Kids and STAR Health MCOs will administer MDCP. MCOs will be responsible for contracting with providers, authorizing services, and reimbursing providers for MDCP services. Individuals who become 21 years old between November 1, 2016 and January, 31 2017, will not be enrolled in STAR Kids, but will continue receiving services, including MDCP services, through fee-for-service until they age out into the STAR+PLUS program. For these individuals, DADS contracted MDCP providers will continue to bill for services through the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) Long Term Care portal as they do now. Once all MDCP individuals are enrolled in managed care, DADS will close all DADS MDCP contracts with an effective date of January 31, 2017. All MDCP providers are encouraged to enroll with the MCOs in their service delivery areas if they have not already done so. The map listing the MCOs may be found on the STAR Kids webpage. The contact information for the MCO enrollment is posted on [IL 16-27, Transition of MDCP Long Term Services and Supports to Managed Care](#).

STAR Kids and STAR Health MCOs are developing provider networks and should have already contacted current MDCP providers to request the provider contract to join their provider network. MDCP providers that have completed the credentialing process and contracted with an MCO will be included in that MCO's online and paper provider directories. Individuals enrolled in MDCP may select MCO service delivery providers from up-to-date information in the online MCO directory. STAR Kids and STAR Health MCOs contract with providers, authorize LTSS and pay their network providers directly. MDCP providers must be prepared to negotiate rates with the MCO with which they wish to contract. MCO requirements for service delivery and documentation and billing may be different from DADS.

STAR Kids and STAR Health MCOs are required to use a standard process and uniform billing matrix for LTSS billing, including billing for MDCP services. The LTSS billing matrix can be found on the STAR Kids website referenced above. Providers will be required to submit all claims within 95 days of the date of service. Other questions regarding information specific to billing practices and bill codes should be submitted to the MCO.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) contracts with the STAR Kids and STAR Health MCOs include a provision to ensure continuity of care for MDCP individuals and providers during the transition from DADS program operations to MCO operations. MCOs must honor existing MDCP service authorizations for six months following the implementation date or until the MCO has conducted a new assessment and issued a new authorization.

HHSC conducted information sessions in January and February of 2016 to inform the targeted providers and families about this program. Additional sessions are scheduled in August and September of 2016 with more specific information for providers and families. The schedule, as well as the presentation used in the earlier information sessions, is posted on the [HHS STAR Kids webpage](#).

For questions about MDCP, please email mdcp@hhsc.state.tx.us. For questions about STAR Kids or STAR Health programs, please email Managed_Care_Initiatives@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

S. Michelle Martin
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
Access and Intake