



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

June 3, 2014

To: Community Based Alternatives Providers/Home and Community Support
Services Agencies
Financial Management Services Agencies
Assisted Living Facilities
Adult Foster Care

Subject: Information Letter No. 14-24
Reassessment Process in Preparation of STAR+PLUS Expansion in Rural Service Areas

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is expanding the STAR+PLUS Medicaid managed care program to the existing Medicaid Rural Service Areas (Medicaid RSAs) including West, Central, and Northeast Texas. With this expansion, most individuals who are older or who have a disability will get their basic health services (acute care), and long-term services and supports (LTSS) through a STAR+PLUS managed care organization (MCO). In the fall of 2013, HHSC began conducting statewide Medicaid Managed Care Initiative information sessions to inform the targeted providers and individuals of this expansion.

This letter is to advise the home and community support services agencies (HCSSAs) serving individuals in the Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Program in the counties listed on page two that DADS case managers will be renewing Individual Service Plans (ISPs) due in July, August and September based on the current service levels. This will negate the need for HCSSAs to reassess individuals' whose plans expire in July, August or September.

CBA ISP changes must be received by the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) case managers by August 19, 2014, in order to be reviewed for approval prior to STAR+PLUS expansion.

In addition, HCSSAs will not be required to conduct semi-annual nursing assessments due in June, July or August for individuals receiving CBA services. HCSSAs are urged to refrain from processing any reassessments with ISP expiration dates on or after October 1, 2014. HCSSAs will no longer have that responsibility.

Medicaid Rural Service Area Expansion

Medicaid RSA	Counties
West Texas	Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Brewster, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan, Castro, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Dickens, Dimmit, Donley, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Fisher, Foard, Frio, Gaines, Glasscock, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Howard, Irion, Jack, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kent, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kinney, Knox, La Salle, Lipscomb, Loving, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Ochilree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parmer, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Winkler, Yoakum, Young, and Zavala
Central Texas	Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Comanche, Coryell, DeWitt, Erath, Falls, Freestone, Gillespie, Gonzales, Grimes, Hamilton, Hill, Jackson, Lampasas, Lavaca, Leon, Limestone, Llano, Madison, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Somervell, and Washington
Northeast Texas	Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Cooke, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Lamar, Marion, Montague, Morris, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood

Effective with the September 1, 2014, implementation of STAR+PLUS expansion in the new Medicaid RSAs, the MCO designated by the individual or system selected, has the responsibility to complete all case action activities related to STAR+PLUS Home and Community-based Services (HCS) waiver for members who transitioned from the DADS CBA program. This includes reassessments, Medical Necessity and Level of Care Assessments for STAR+PLUS HCS waiver ISPs with expiration date of **October 1, 2014, or later**.

Provider Communications Regarding STAR+PLUS Program Expansion

DADS publishes information regarding the transition of LTSS from DADS to the STAR+PLUS program on DADS website at: www.dads.state.tx.us/providers. Refer to information letters and alerts regarding Managed Care and STAR+PLUS topics.

STAR+PLUS Program Contact Information

If you have questions about the content of this information letter, please contact the assigned DADS case manager.

Please let me know if you have general questions or need additional information about DADS components of the STAR+PLUS expansion in the Medicaid RSAs, Rhonda Pratt is the lead staff on this matter and can be reached by phone at (512) 438-5813 or by email rhonda.pratt@dads.state.tx.us.

For more information regarding this expansion, and other managed care initiatives, please refer to the HHSC Medicaid Managed Care Initiatives webpage at: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/managed-care/mmc.shtml>.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
Access and Intake

[signature on file]

Donna Jessee
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation