



Date: October 24, 2017

To: Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 17-24
Participant Surveys in the DBMD Program Receiving Licensed
Assisted Living (19) or Licensed Home Health Assisted Living (19E)

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission requires DBMD program providers to perform certain activities related to participant surveys in the DBMD Program and to complete a provider survey.

Participant Surveys

HHSC recently requested and received information from DBMD program providers regarding individuals in the DBMD Program receiving licensed assisted living (19) or licensed home health assisted living (19E). Based on this information, HHSC will schedule face-to-face visits with these people to survey them about the services they receive and their experiences in the DBMD Program. The information from these surveys will help HHSC evaluate its compliance with federal regulations for Home and Community-Based Services promulgated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in 2014. These federal regulations require settings where HCBS are provided, including DBMD services, to meet new criteria.

Beginning in October, HHSC staff will contact each individual receiving licensed assisted living (19) or licensed home health assisted living (19E) to schedule a face-to-face visit with the person. The visits will take place throughout the state in the upcoming months, beginning in November. DBMD providers must explain the information contained under the heading "Participant Surveys" to each person receiving licensed assisted living (19) or licensed home health assisted living (19E). In addition, DBMD providers must facilitate the scheduling of the visits at the request of HHSC staff.

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Provider surveys

DBMD providers must also complete a survey that will help HHSC identify ways to improve quality in our waiver programs. This survey may be completed online or by paper and mailed to HHSC. A link to the survey will be sent to DBMD providers later this month via Gov Delivery. A deadline for completing the survey will be included, as well as instructions on who may complete the survey.

To learn more about the HCBS Regulations, please visit:

<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/resources/home-community-based-services-hcbs>.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please send them to: Medicaid_HCBS_Rule@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Tamela Griffin
Interim Deputy Associate Commissioner
Policy and Program
HHSC Medicaid and CHIP Services