



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

July 2, 2010

To: Community Services Program Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 10-81
MN and LOC 2.0 and 3.0 Submission Timeframes and
MN and LOC 3.0 Workshops

This letter provides information on the following:

- Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN and LOC) 3.0 Submission Timeframes
- MN and LOC 2.0 Submission Timeframes
- Retiring the TILES to RUGs Website
- MN and LOC 2.0 to 3.0 Workshops

Effective October 1, 2010, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) is releasing a new version of the MN and LOC Assessment called the MN and LOC 3.0 Assessment. In conjunction with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) release of a 3.0 version of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Assessment for Nursing Facilities, DADS is releasing this new version of the MN and LOC to ensure consistency between the Nursing Facility and Waiver medical necessity determination.

This transition affects the following Community Services Providers:

- Community-Based Alternatives (CBA)
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Consolidated Waiver Program (CWP)
- Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)
- Integrated Care Management Waiver (ICMW) 1915(c) Waiver recipients
- State of Texas Access Reform Plus (STAR+PLUS)

MN and LOC 3.0 Submission Timeframes

Submission of MN and LOC 3.0 Assessments begins on October 1, 2010.

MN and LOC 2.0 Submission Timeframes

Providers are encouraged to submit all MN and LOC 2.0 Assessments by September 30, 2010, including:

- New Submissions (Initial, Significant Change in Status Assessment, and Annual).
- MN and LOC 2.0 Drafts that have been saved in 'My Drafts' on the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) Long Term Care (LTC) Online Portal.

Retiring the TILES to RUGs Website

As the transition from MN and LOC 2.0 to MN and LOC 3.0 approaches, it is important that providers are directed to the most current information. Therefore, DADS will retire the TILES to RUGs website (<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/TILEStoRUGS/>) as of August 2, 2010. The RUGs e-mail address (RUGS@dads.state.tx.us) will also be retired.

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MN and LOC 3.0 information can be found on the DADS MDS and MN/LOC 2.0 to 3.0 Project website at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/MDS/mds3/index.html>.

Questions concerning MDS 2.0 and 3.0 can be sent to: MDS30@dads.state.tx.us.

MN and LOC 2.0 to 3.0 Workshops

New LTC workshops will be provided from August through November 2010. These new half-day workshops focus on changes as a result of a new MN and LOC 3.0 Assessment effective October 1, 2010. The MN and LOC 2.0 to 3.0 workshop for Community Services Program providers offers valuable information on the changes associated with the upcoming implementation of the new MN and LOC 3.0 Assessment and the reason it is being introduced.

The schedule for this MN and LOC 2.0 to 3.0 workshop will be posted on the TMHP website by mid-July. Providers can check workshop schedules and register online for LTC workshops at www.tmhp.com/LTC_Programs/ by scrolling to "LTC Program Resources" on the TMHP website and clicking on **Register for a Workshop**.

In addition to the live workshops, providers can participate in an online, instructor-led, webinar version of the LTC workshop without leaving the office. This interactive webinar will be held in August 2010. Alternatively, providers will be able to replay a recorded version of the webinar starting in September 2010.

There is no need to register for the recorded webinar, which is scheduled to be available two weeks after the first scheduled live webinar. Webinar access and details for downloading the training materials are available on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com/C18/Workshops/default.aspx.

Please contact TMHP at 1-800-626-4117, Option 1, with questions about these MN and LOC 2.0 to 3.0 Workshops.

Providers should contact their association for information about clinical training.

For information regarding RUG III Training for MN and LOC 3.0, access the following letter: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/mds/mds3/RUGIIITraining-MNLOC.pdf>.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Gordon Taylor
DADS Chief Financial Officer

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