



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

February 11, 2014

To: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Condition Program Providers
Home and Community-based Services Program Providers
Texas Home Living Program Providers
Community Living Assistance and Support Services Program Providers
Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities Program Providers
Local Authorities

Subject: **Information Letter 14-04**
Expansion of Medicaid Acute Care Services - Maintaining Continuous Eligibility to Avoid Disruption of Services for Enrolled Individuals

The purpose of this letter is to remind Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), Home and Community-based Services (HCS), Texas Home Living (TxHmL), Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) program providers, and local authorities of the importance of maintaining an individual's continuously current Level of Care (LOC) authorization, Individual Plan of Care (IPC) authorization, and Medicaid eligibility to avoid a negative impact to an individual's services. If the LOC or IPC authorization lapses, an individual will be at risk for losing Medicaid acute care services (STAR+PLUS).

In accordance with the provisions of Senate Bill 7, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, an individual residing in an ICF/IID or receiving long term services and support (LTSS) through the HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, or DBMD waiver program will receive acute care services through a STAR+PLUS managed care organization (MCO) beginning September 1, 2014. Acute care services are typically provided in a primary care physician's office, a specialty physician's office, or a hospital or clinic emergency room as treatment for an isolated event or part of routine health maintenance. The service delivery model through which the individual is currently receiving ICF/IID, HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, or DBMD LTSS will remain the same.

Beginning September 1, 2014, a lapse in LOC authorization, IPC authorization, or Medicaid eligibility recertification for an individual residing in an ICF/IID or enrolled in HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, or DBMD will result in the individual's disenrollment from STAR+PLUS acute care services.

To ensure an individual remains eligible for STAR+PLUS acute care services and ICF/IID, HCS, TxHmL, CLASS, or DBMD LTSS without interruption, the LOC authorization, IPC authorization, and Medicaid eligibility must remain continuously active. The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will provide future updates for program providers and local authorities on recommendations for improving processes to monitor lapses in coverage and ensure timely submission of documentation.

In order to reduce the risk of an individual experiencing a lapse in LOC authorization, IPC authorization, or Medicaid eligibility, DADS encourages all program providers and local authorities to review their current business processes, related to monitoring LOC and IPC renewal dates and ensuring timely submission of documents, to address areas that may need improvement. While processes exist for requesting coverage of a lapse in an LOC authorization or backdating of an IPC authorization, after expansion of STAR+PLUS acute care services, utilizing these processes will result in the loss of the individual's acute care services. As such, DADS reminds program providers and local authorities of their obligation to comply with the current timeframes for submissions standards.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is hosting a series of information sessions across the state on Medicaid managed care initiatives. For additional information regarding these opportunities and other news regarding the managed care expansion, please visit HHSC Medicaid managed care initiatives web site: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/mmc.shtml>.

For questions related to this information letter, please contact the Policy Development and Oversight mailbox at pdo@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Donna Jessee
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

[signature on file]

Elisa J. Garza
Assistant Commissioner
Access and Intake