



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

February 5, 2008

To: Integrated Care Management (ICM) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-07
ICM Specialized Nursing Services

The ICM program began February 1, 2008. Specialized nursing services and associated rates were recently implemented in the Community Based Alternatives (CBA) program and are included in the ICM 1915(c) Medicaid waiver program. Specialized nursing services may be provided when a consumer is unable to do self-care and needs at least one of the following services:

- daily skilled nursing to cleanse, dress, and suction a tracheostomy, as demonstrated by a value of 3-7 in Item 093 of Form 3652, Client Assessment, Review and Evaluation (CARE); or
- daily skilled nursing assistance with ventilator care, as demonstrated by a value of 3-7 in Item 099 of CARE Form 3652.

The addition of specialized nursing services is completed as a revision to the individual service plan (ISP) in the same manner as any other ISP change. Providers send Form 2067 to the Evercare service coordinator who will note the addition of specialized nursing services on the ISP (Form 3671). Providers may also coordinate with the Evercare service coordinator to obtain authorization for specialized nursing services in an initial ISP or at ISP renewal.

Providers must maintain documentation to support the use of specialized nursing rates. The addition of specialized nursing services may not be retroactive. If specialized nursing services are authorized, all nursing services provided from the ISP effective date forward **must** be placed under the specialized nursing category and billed using the codes shown in the revised billing crosswalk which may be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/hipaa/billcodes/index.html#tc>

The rate for LVN specialized nursing is \$34.14 per hour. The rate for RN specialized nursing is \$49.90 per hour.

The process of adding specialized nursing service codes to the billing system for each ICM 1915(c) waiver services contract has begun, but will take time to complete. Until April 1, 2008, providers should access Medicaid Eligibility Service Authorization Verification (MESAV) to ensure specialized nursing service codes are available for the consumer prior to attempting to bill for these new services.

Until April 1, 2008, providers needing these service codes added to their contract may send an e-mail to angelina.combswatts@dads.state.tx.us advising that a request for specialized nursing services authorization has been submitted and providing the ICM contract number. The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will prioritize the addition of specialized

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nursing service codes to that contract to allow billing. Regardless of when specialized nursing service codes are added to a contract, a provider is eligible to receive specialized nursing rates from the effective date of the ISP change.

Please also refer to ICM [Information Letter #07-97](#) for details about the use of service codes in the ICM 1915(c) Medicaid waiver program. Separate codes are required for individuals based on Social Security Income eligibility. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Ric Zimmerman at ric.zimmerman@dads.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 438-3768.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Scott Schalchlin, M.Ed., J.D.
Director
Community Services

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