



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

April 9, 2008

To: Nursing Facility Providers
Hospice Providers
Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSAs), Consolidated Waiver Programs (CWP), Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), State of Texas Access Reform Plus (STAR+Plus) and Integrated Care Management (ICM) Providers

Subject: Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Information Letter No. 2008-40
TILEs to RUGs Training Information

In preparation for the transition from the Texas Index for Level of Effort (TILE) to the federal Resource Utilization Group (RUG-III) on September 1, 2008, it is important for providers to be aware of upcoming changes. The training information below is provided to help insure a successful transition.

Two separate types of training will be available to assist providers in preparing for implementation of RUGs. Both online training in nurse clinical assessment, and instructor-led Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) workshops on DADS program rules and changes to the LTC Online Portal, will be made available during the project training phase beginning this spring.

- **Online Training.** Online RUG training is now available in addition to the existing online TILE training. This training is based on the MDS 2.0 and RUG-III 34 Group Model. All provider nurses responsible for signing assessments as "complete" are required to complete this training before their assessments will be accepted to authorize services. This training is being offered by Texas State University online for a fee of \$40.00 at www.txstate.edu/continuinged beginning April 1, 2008.
- **LTC RUG Workshops.** TMHP has scheduled separate workshops for nursing facility providers and for community waiver providers. The *LTC RUG/MDS Nursing Facility/Hospice Provider Workshops* will begin in June. The *LTC RUG Workshops for Community Waiver Providers* will be offered beginning in July. These workshops are recommended and will provide an important overview of the TILEs to RUGs transition, highlight rule changes, instruct providers on how to submit the MDS Form and state-specific information, and provide information about how TILE values will be transitioned to RUG values. Workshop registration is tentatively set to begin in early May. To register for a workshop, visit www.tmhp.com/LTC_Programs/ and click on **Register for a workshop** in the **LTC Programs Resources** section of the page.

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Please refer to the following DADS Information Letter for additional information related to the TILES to RUGs Project:

February 2, 2008 - [Information Letter No. 08-02](#): *Elimination of Paper Forms 3618, 3619 and 3652-A Effective August 1, 2008 / Requirement for Electronic Submission Effective August 1, 2008*

An additional set of letters on *Helpful Provider Information* is being prepared for NF and Community Waiver services providers. Plans are to publish these letters on TMHP.com and the DADS Letters to Providers website in April or early May.

All DADS Information Letters are posted on the DADS website at:
<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/index.cfm>.

In addition, the quarterly *Long Term Care Provider Bulletins* publish updates on the TILES to RUGs Transition Project. This bulletin is available online at <http://www.tmhp.com/LTC Programs/>.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Gordon Taylor
DADS Chief Financial Officer

GT: kd