



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
April 1, 2021**



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Policy COVID-19 Updates

Michelle Erwin

Deputy Associate Commissioner

MCS Policy and Program

Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities (1 of 2)

- Many Medicaid and CHIP flexibilities have been extended through **April 30, 2021**, unless the federal Public Health Emergency ends sooner.
- HHSC will provide more information if there are changes.



Medicaid & CHIP Flexibilities (2 of 2)

- Information on the flexibilities and extensions can be found on the following webpages:
 - **TMHP Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information**
(<http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-HOME.aspx>).
 - **HHS Provider (PL) and Information (IL) letters**
(<http://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/letters.cfm>).
 - **HHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Provider Information**
(<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/medicaid-chip-services-information-providers>).



Texas' Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) 2.0 Assessment (1 of 4)

Effective April 1, 2021, it will be a permanent option for Texas' Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) 2.0 assessment to be conducted via telehealth for children ages 3-17 years old in STAR Health.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas' Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) 2.0 Assessment (2 of 4)

- Texas' (TX) CANS 2.0 is a trauma-informed behavioral health assessment tool for children in state conservatorship.
- It is intended to:
 - Prevent duplicate assessments by multiple parties
 - Decrease unnecessary psychological testing
 - Aid in identifying placement and treatment needs
 - Inform case planning decisions



Texas' Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) 2.0 Assessment (3 of 4)

- The goal of allowing the TX CANS 2.0 to be conducted via telehealth is to increase completion of the TX CANS 2.0 assessments and increase access to the TX CANS 2.0 certified providers to drive appropriate treatment planning.
- The MCO must ensure:
 - A certified TX CANS 2.0 assessment provider in the MCO's network performs the assessment.
 - Members have a choice of telehealth providers.
 - The TX CANS 2.0 is complete for children ages 3-17 in state conservatorship within 30 days of STAR Health enrollment and annually thereafter.



Texas' Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) 2.0 Assessment (4 of 4)

- The MCO must ensure (cont.):
 - The TX CANS 2.0 assessment may be completed via telehealth using a secure portal and utilization of a remote site (i.e. foster home, temporary shelter, residential treatment center, DFPS office, etc.).
- For more information, contact:
StarHealthPPD@hhsc.state.tx.us.



COVID-19 Response

Communication Channels

Clients

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- Health plan channels and providers

Providers

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- [COVID section on TMHP site](#)
- Health plan channels

+ Update calls

Submit questions to:
Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhs.texas.gov



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



Thank You!

**Next update:
April 8, 2021**