



MEMORANDUM

TO: EPH Providers

FROM: El Paso Health

DATE: March 28, 2023

RE: **Multiple COVID-19 Flexibilities for Services Ending**

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received notice that the COVID-19 federal public health emergency (PHE) declared January 31, 2020, will end on May 11, 2023.

Spell of Illness - Effective March 13, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized the spell of illness limitation for fee-for-service clients 21 years of age and older, STAR+PLUS members, and STAR Health members 21 years of age and older to be extended up to an additional 30 days for COVID-19–related inpatient hospital stays. For COVID-19–related hospital stays, HHSC also waived the \$200,000 inpatient hospital benefit limitation, which applies to adults in fee-for service Medicaid and for some members who remain in STAR Health after their twenty-first birthday. For more information on the end of this flexibility, refer to [Spell of Illness Extension for COVID-19–Related Inpatient Hospital Claims Ending with End of PHE.](#)

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) - Effective May 7, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized providers to bill THSteps medical checkups for children 24 months and older through telemedicine (physician-delivered) audiovisual and telephone (audio-only) delivery platforms. For more information on the end of this flexibility, refer to [Texas Health Steps Flexibilities for Telemedicine \(Audio-visual\) and Telephone \(Audio-only\) Delivery Training Ending at End of PHE.](#)

Case Management for Children and Pregnant Women (CPW) - Effective March 24, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized providers to bill comprehensive visits and follow-up visits through telehealth (non-physician delivered) audiovisual and telephone (audio-only) platforms. Effective September 1, 2022, CPW comprehensive visits and follow-up visits completed through the use of synchronous audiovisual technology are benefits of Texas Medicaid. Effective May 12, 2023, CPW comprehensive visits may not be delivered by telephone (audio-only). For more information on the end of this flexibility, refer to [Update on Case Management for CPW Policy Changes and COVID-19 Flexibilities.](#)



MEMORANDUM

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Specialized Skills Training (SST)

Effective March 15, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized providers to bill procedure code T1027 for telehealth (non-physician delivered) telephone (audio-only) ECI SST. For more information on the end of this flexibility, refer to [Flexibilities for Telephone \(Audio-only\) Early Childhood Intervention Specialized Skills Training Ending at End of PHE.](#)

Nutritional Counseling - Effective March 15, 2020, through the end of the federal PHE on May 11, 2023, HHSC authorized providers to bill procedure code S9470 for telehealth (non-physician delivered) telephone (audio-only) nutritional counseling. For more information on the end of this flexibility, refer to [Flexibilities for Telephone \(Audio-only\) Nutritional Counseling Services Ending at End of PHE.](#)

If you have any questions regarding this communication please contact our Provider Relations team at 915-532-3778 or email us at ProviderRelationsDG@elpasohealth.com

References:

[Spell of Illness Extension for COVID-19-Related Inpatient Hospital Claims Ending with End of PHE | TMHP](#)

[Texas Health Steps Flexibilities for Telemedicine \(Audio-visual\) and Telephone \(Audio-only\) Delivery Training Ending at End of PHE | TMHP](#)

[Update on Case Management for CPW Policy Changes and COVID-19 Flexibilities | TMHP](#)

[Flexibilities for Telephone \(Audio-only\) Early Childhood Intervention Specialized Skills Training Ending at End of PHE | TMHP](#)

[Flexibilities for Telephone \(Audio-only\) Nutritional Counseling Services Ending at End of PHE | TMHP](#)