



STAR+PLUS Medicaid Changes

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At the United Healthcare Community Member Advisory Committee meeting on November 15th, members were updated on changes that will be happening in STAR+PLUS Medicaid in 2014. Families that have children with disabilities and consumers who are on STAR+PLUS Medicaid will be impacted by these changes so we wanted to pass on what they learned.

New Populations Moving into Managed Care

Adults in Home Community Based Services (HCBS) and ICF-IID (Group Homes)

- Adults age 21 and over in HCBS and ICF-IID facilities are mandated into STAR+PLUS for acute Medicaid entitlement benefits 9/1/2014 – acute care is doctor visits, some therapies, etc.
- Adult children on CLASS, HCS, TX Home Living waivers will now receive acute care services through STAR+PLUS Medicaid but children under 21 are optional in STAR or STAR+PLUS depending on area until 9/1/2015 when STAR Kids is implemented. The rest of the services provided by the waivers will stay the same. A Service Coordinator will be assigned to coordinate all services.

STAR Kids

- New STAR Kids Program for all kids on SSI and MDCP below the age of 21 starts 9/1/2015
- Nurse advice line, health home, care needs assessment multidisciplinary care teams, monitoring and reporting outcomes.
- Kids currently on STAR+PLUS will move to STAR Kids.
- **Children on CLASS, HCS, or TX Home Living will be mandatory into STAR kids effective 9/1/2015 for all acute services. Waiver services will remain the same for now.**

New Benefits in Managed Care Effective 9/1/2014

Behavioral Health Services

- Targeted case management and psychiatric rehabilitation services
- Two health home pilots

Texas Parent to Parent

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Employment and Housing Benefits

- Employment assistance benefit and supported employment added to waiver benefits under STAR+PLUS. Consumers will be assessed to determine if able to work, learn job skills training and help with placement in a job.
- Additional housing supports and community based housing options.

Attendant and Habilitation Benefits

- Attendant and habilitation benefits will be added to STAR+PLUS
- Assessment by Local IDD authority
- Entitlement benefit for people with IDD. Dependant on federal funding.

Several committees have been formed by HHSC as required by Senate Bill 7, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session 2013 to make policy recommendations that will affect how each of these new services will be implemented.

For more information Texas HHSC is holding a series of meetings concerning Medicaid managed care initiatives information around the state to provide more information and to answer questions. Here is a link to the meeting schedule:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/meetings.asp>

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