

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS Termination Process**

The Program Support Units (PSU) will resume waiver termination activity starting on or after 2/1/2021, with an effective date no earlier than 2/28/2021.

Any member losing STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) or STAR Kids Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP) will be terminated from the waiver. In accordance with CMS-9912-IFC, HHSC will maintain continuous Medicaid coverage for these members until the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). PSU will notify the member and the managed care organization (MCO) of the loss of waiver eligibility via Form H2065D.

Medical Assistance Only (MAO) members losing waiver services – The MCO must inform the member of continued enrollment and state plan/non-waiver services will be provided until the end of the federal COVID-19 PHE.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) members losing waiver services – The MCO must inform the member of continued enrollment and only state plan/non-waiver services will be provided.

All STAR+PLUS HCBS individual service plans (ISPs), Form H1700-1, must be submitted to PSU via TxMedCentral.

All STAR Kids MDCP ISPs must be submitted via the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) Long Term Care Online Portal (LTCOP). PSU will continue to extend expired ISP's in one-month increments awaiting the outcome of a new assessment, age out or denial remedy as indicated below.

Termination Category 1 (TC1):

Population = members whose Medical Necessity/Level of Care (MN/LOC) or STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SK-SAI) went into a final denial status in the TMHP LTCOP or the state fair hearing decision to uphold an MN denial was rendered on or before 10/3/2020. This does not apply to MN/LOC or SK-SAI denials rendered on ISPs originally ending 12/31/2020, and forward.

PSU will notify the MCO via Form H2067MC of each member requiring a new MN/LOC or SK-SAI. The MCO must perform a new assessment and submit in the TMHP LTCOP. The MN/LOC must be completed within 45 days of the

Form H2067MC. The SK-SAI must be completed within 60 days of the Form H2067MC.

The MCO must respond to PSU advising of the outcome of the new MN/LOC or SK-SAI (approved, denied or refused). A member who declares no change in condition from the time the previous MN/LOC or SK SAI was denied, will still require a new assessment. The MCO must advise PSU if the member refuses a new assessment. PSU will terminate waiver services using the termination code for 'Declined Assessment'.

Members whose MN/LOC or SK-SAI remains in a denial status following a new assessment will be terminated from the waiver. PSU will generate a Form H2065D in the TMHP LTCOP notifying the member and MCO of the waiver termination date.

Members whose MN/LOC or SK-SAI changes to an approved status will remain enrolled in the waiver. The MCO must develop and submit a new ISP to PSU following guidance posted in TexConnect 10/27/20, STAR Kids MDCP Only_Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments and STAR+PLUS HCBS Only_Process for Off-Cycle Reassessments.

Termination Category 2 (TC2):

Population = members previously referred to PSU for termination, but action could not be taken due to the PHE. An example would be 'unable to locate' or 'no unmet need'.

The MCO must document attempts to remedy the denial, such as pursue contact with the member or review the current plan with the member to ensure there continues to be no unmet need.

The MCO must notify PSU via Form H2067MC if they are able to remedy the denial. Member services must continue without interruption. No PSU response on the Form H2067MC is required.

The MCO must notify PSU via Form H2067MC if they are unable to remedy the denial. PSU will respond via Form H2065D notifying the MCO and the member of the termination effective date.

PSU will coordinate with MCCO for no response or remedy of these cases in a reasonable timeframe.

Termination Category 3 (TC3):

Population = STAR Kids MDCP members who turned 21 years old, have been referred to the MCO and do not meet STAR+PLUS HCBS criteria.

PSU will notify the MCO and member of STAR+PLUS HCBS denial via Form H2065D.

Members ineligible for STAR+PLUS HCBS will remain enrolled in Medicaid via MAO or SSI. Refer to MAO and SSI information above.

Termination Category 4 (TC4):

Population = STAR Kids MDCP members who failed to meet the MDCP criteria and who are 21 years old in STAR Kids MDCP. Example: ISP extended through age 21 due to a denied SK-SAI.

The STAR Kids MCO must reach out to the PSU via Form H2067MC to advise of the scenario and obtain further direction for handling the case.