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Welcome Providers!

LTCR IDD/PI Quarterly Webinar

April 27, 2023

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Agenda

1. General Alerts
2. Blackboard Connect
3. HCS Alerts and Updates
4. Individualized Skills and Socialization Alerts
5. STAR+Plus Pilot Program (SP3)
6. Q & A



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General Alerts

HHSC Alerts

HHSC Informs LTC Providers of the End of Temp. Waivers of Certain LTCR Requirements During the COVID-19 PHE (PL 2023-05)

HHSC Long-term Care (LTC) Regulation has published [Provider Letter 2023-05 \(Replaces PL 21-29\) - End of Temporary Waivers of Certain LTCR Requirements During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PDF\)](#).

The provider letter describes the waivers that are ending, the waivers still in place, and the waivers previously ended. Read [PL 2023-05](#) for the details.



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HHSC Alerts

HHSC Informs LTC Providers of the End of Temp. Waivers of Certain LTCR Requirements During the COVID-19 PHE (PL 2023-05)

Waivers Ending May 1, 2023:

- Requirements related to application submission and processing timeframes for CNAs and medication aides. This waiver allowed flexibility on extending certificates and permits while a late application is being processed and permitted a nurse aide to work with an expired certification and a medication aide to work with an expired permit until HHSC required renewal.
- Requirements related to clinical and skills training in a nursing facility and the requirement of classroom training to be in person for CNAs and medication aides.
- Beginning May 1, 2023, a Nurse Aide Training & Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) can only offer clinical training in a laboratory setting if there is not an appropriate and qualified clinical site located within 20 miles of the location of the NATCEP. A NATCEP must request the ability to complete clinical training hours in a laboratory setting under these circumstances.



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HHSC Alerts

HHSC Informs LTC Providers of the End of Temp. Waivers of Certain LTCR Requirements During the COVID-19 PHE (PL 2023-05)

Waivers Still in Effect:

- HHSC will still allow a Home and Community-based Services (HCS) four-person residence to add up to two additional individuals temporarily if the residence has the space to accommodate them and has been approved as a four-person residence by HHSC.
- Waiver of the requirement for HCS providers to ensure at least one complete staff shift change per day for individuals receiving residential support.
- Waiver of the requirement for day habilitation to be provided in accordance with the individual's person-directed plan, individual plan of care, implementation plan, and Appendix C of the HCS Program waiver application.

Read [PL 2023-05](#) for the details.



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Blackboard Connect

Blackboard Connect

PL 22-32

- Blackboard Connect is an Emergency Communication System HHSC uses to send emergency and outreach notifications through email, phone, voice and text.
- The rules require program providers to assign a designee to enroll in and respond to requests through the system. The designee should be associated with the licensed building or someone who is responsible for communicating emergency communications.



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Who is required to sign up

The following staff must sign up for each program:

- Home and Community-based Services program providers: Designee
- Intermediate Care Facilities: Administrator and designee
- Texas Home Living program providers: Designee
- Individualized Skills and Socialization: Administrator or designee



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10 Easy Steps to Sign Up

Register

1. Go to <https://txhhscrsdopen.bbcportal.com/Entry> and click Sign Me Up!
2. Enter information in each field. Click the checkbox to agree with the terms of use then click Continue.
3. Next, check your email for a confirmation message. Use the hyperlink in the email to confirm your email address and log into your account.

Select 3 security questions and provide the answers. These are used to verify your identity in case of need to reset your password. Click Save to continue.



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10 Easy Steps to Sign Up

Enter Contact Information

4. Once logged in, click Address and enter your full business address. Entering the County is mandatory. Click Next to continue.
5. This will open a map to confirm your address. Once identified, click Save to continue.
6. If you wish to alter your email address, click Add Email and provide a new email.
7. Selecting Add Phone to provide your phone information. Provide a work phone number and select the delivery methods you prefer. You may add additional numbers if you wish to receive alerts on multiple devices. Click Save.
8. Once all information tabs are complete, click Next to continue.



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10 Easy Steps to Sign Up

Subscribe

9. Use the checkboxes to subscribe to all the topics you would like to receive messages for and that pertain to your program and location. You cannot opt-out of receiving emergency messages. Click Next to continue.
10. If you would like to alter your preferred contact method for the message topics you selected, click the edit icons to the right. Click Done when complete.



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Blackboard Connect

- If you have already registered, go back and check your contact information.
- HHSC has received a lot of return messages due to invalid phone numbers and emails.



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HCS and TxHmL Alerts

HHSC Alerts

HHSC and Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership Conducting On-Site Assessment of 3-Person Residences, 4-Person Residences and Host Home/Companion Care Settings

HHSC reminds HCS program providers that HHSC, with the assistance of Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP), is conducting on-site assessments of 3-person residences, 4-person residences, and Host Home/Companion Care (HH/CC) settings to ensure compliance with the federal HCBS Settings Rule.

HCS program providers should be prepared for 3-person residence and 4-person residence, and HH/CC setting assessments, and for implementation of follow-up remediation activities to address non-compliance issues identified during the assessment.

HCS program providers should notify HH/CC service providers of the on-site assessments. HHSC and TMHP staff may reach out directly to schedule an on-site visit and will alert the HCS program provider of required follow-up remediation activities needed to achieve full compliance.



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HHSC Alerts

HHSC and Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership Conducting On-Site Assessment of 3-Person Residences, 4-Person Residences and Host Home/Companion Care Settings

The assessments are required by CMS to ensure all residents have the following by March 17, 2023:

- A lease or residential agreement that offers protections against eviction.
- Privacy in their sleeping or living unit, including lockable doors.
- Access to food at any time.

For more information regarding the assessments, refer to [IL 2022-49](#), published Sept. 23, 2022.

For questions about the assessments, email Medicaid_HCBS@hhs.texas.gov.



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HHSC Alerts

HHSC published PL 2023-06 Compliance with New HCBS Settings Rules

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation published [Provider Letter 2023-06](#) regarding Compliance with New HCBS Settings Rules on March 24, 2023.

This letter explains how LTCR surveyors will assess HCS providers for compliance with the new HCBS settings requirements.



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HHSC Alerts

Register for TMHP LTC Town Hall for HCS and TxHmL Providers and FMSAs

Save the Dates

The webinar will be held on the following dates. *We encourage Providers and FMSAs to invite staff who use the LTC Online Portal for HCS and TxHmL programs.*

- **May 2023:** Wednesday, May 10, from 10 a.m.–noon
[Register for the webinar.](#)
- **June 2023:** Wednesday, June 14, from 10 a.m.–noon
[Register for the webinar.](#)

Standing Meeting Agenda

- *Trending Issues* — discuss trending issues and solutions to increase successful processing of forms.
- *Training and Information Sharing* — provide relevant training and updates.
- *Questions and Answers* — HCS/TxHmL Providers and FMSAs will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding LTC Online Portal for HCS and TxHmL.



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HCS Updates

HCS Certification Standard Rule Project Update

- Formal comment period ended March 20, 2023
- Scheduled adoption date is June 2023.
- Working with training partners to develop training materials and resources.



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Individualized Skills and Socialization Alerts

HHSC Alerts

HHSC Publishes Revised PL 2023-01

HHSC has published revised [Provider Letter 2023-01](#) [New Regulatory Rules for Long-term Care Regulation \(LTCR\) Individualized Skills and Socialization Services](#).

Revisions to this PL include additional guidance regarding when to expect a survey, what happens during a survey, and what providers must do during a survey.



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HHSC Alerts

HHSC Updates the DAHS Online Directory

HHSC has updated the Day Activity Health Services (DAHS) Directories to include the Individualized Skills and Socialization Providers:

- DAHS Facilities, including those that provide DAHS with Individualized Skills and Socialization
- DAHS Individualized Skills and Socialization only



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DAHS Online Directory

Directories can be found on the [DAHS home page](#).

Texas DAHS Directory

- [Directory of Traditional DAHS and DAHS with Individualized Skills and Socialization Facilities in Excel format](#)
- [Directory of Traditional DAHS and DAHS with Individualized Skills and Socialization Facilities in PDF format](#)
- [Directory of DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization Only Facilities in Excel format](#)
- [Directory of DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization Only Facilities in PDF format](#)



LTC Provider Search

- [Long-term Care Provider Search | HHS \(texas.gov\)](https://www.texas.gov)

What is the LTC Provider Search?

Finding long-term care for yourself or a family member is an important task. While nothing can replace visiting a facility or meeting with a provider in person, the Long-term Care (LTC) Provider Search can help you learn more about these providers and facilities.

The LTC Provider Search includes information about:

- Nursing homes
- Assisted living facilities
- Intermediate care facilities for people with IDD
- Daytime programs for adults
- Home health, hospice and personal assistance services
- Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers

A screenshot of the LTC Provider Search web application. At the top, there are two tabs: "Location" and "Provider Name", with "Provider Name" currently selected. Below the tabs is a search form with two input fields: "City, County or ZIP Code" and "Select Type of Care" (a dropdown menu). A yellow "SEARCH" button is positioned at the bottom right of the form.



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STAR+Plus Pilot Program (SP3) Updates

SP3

STAR+Plus Pilot Program

H.B. 4533, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) establish a pilot program to test the delivery of long-term services and supports (LTSS) for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and similar functional needs in STAR+PLUS Medicaid managed care.

The pilot program must begin no later than September 1, 2023, and is open to Home and Community-based Services (HCS) waiver, Texas Home Living (TxHmL), Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD), and community Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) program providers.



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SP3

LTCR Certification Rules

Long-term Care Regulation (LTCR) is developing regulatory rules related to the certification of those HCS and TXHML provider who wish to participate in the pilot.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Long-term Care Regulation accepted comments from stakeholders on the SP3 draft rules from April 3 to April 14, 2023.

HHSC is reviewing comments and preparing the rules for the formal comment period.



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LTCR Q&A

LTCR Q&A

When do I have to have a fire marshal inspection for a DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization Provider?

For DAHS *with* Individualized Skills and Socialization, the provider must meet the applicable Life Safety Code requirements for a DAHS license along with any local requirements.

For DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization *Only*, the provider must meet the LTCR regulatory requirements in [26 TAC Subchapter H](#) and local requirements.



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LTCR Q&A

Are Individualized Skills and Socialization providers going to be required to dispense and administer medications?

The provider may have individualized skills and socialization services staff delegated to provide medication. If an individual cannot or chooses not to self-administer his or her medications, the provider must assist with medications and the performance of related tasks.



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LTCR Q&A

How should I report abuse, neglect, and exploitation if I am an Individualized Skills and Socialization provider?

Any Individualized Skills and Socialization provider staff who suspects or learns an individual is in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation (ANE) must report the abuse, neglect, or exploitation to Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Complaint and Incident Intake (CII) by either:

- calling 1-800-458-9858, or
- using the submission portal in TULIP within one hour after suspecting or learning of the alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Using TULIP is the preferred way for providers to report incidents.



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LTCR Q&A

ANE Continued.

Within five working days after making a report to CII, the provider must ensure an investigation of the incident is conducted and send a written investigation report on [Form 3613-A](#), Provider Investigation Report (PIR), or a form containing, at a minimum, the information required by Form 3613-A, to HHSC's CII.

See [PL 2023-01](#)



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LTCR Q&A

Do I need a license to offer in-home individualized skills and socialization services?

LTCR does not regulate in-home individualized skills and socialization services. Questions about the provision of and eligibility for in-home individualized skills and socialization services should go to HCSPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov.

LTCR rules apply to on-site and off-site individualized skills and socialization providers.



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Information Letters

1. [IL 2023-10](#) (Replaces IL 2023-06) In-Home Individualized Skills and Socialization Information for Program Providers for COVID-19
 - a. Related to the in-home ISS flexibility until the end of the PHE
2. [IL 2023-15](#) (Replaces 2023-09) Provider owned or controlled residential Host Home/Companion Care settings
 - a. Related to HH/CC exemption for provider owned and controlled
3. [IL 2023-07](#) Implementation of Individualized Skills and Socialization
 - a. Related to ISS implementation



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Questions?

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Phone: 512-438-3161

Stay Informed

Sign up for gov.delivery to receive alerts

Go to:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>

- Enter your email address.
- Confirm your email address, select your delivery preference, and submit a password if you want one.
- Select your topics.
- When done click "Submit."



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LTCR IDD/PI Quarterly Webinar

Webinar Schedule

Next Webinar: July 2023

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Email: LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
Phone: 512-438-3161

Also, as a reminder, the PowerPoint slides will be available on the provider portals shortly after the webinar is completed, typically within 48-72 hours.



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Upcoming Webinars



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Send your ideas for our upcoming quarterly webinars.

LTCRPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov

Subject: LTCR IDD Quarterly Webinar
Idea





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Thank you!

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