

March 1, 2017

Dear Provider:

On December 1, 2016, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) announced reimbursement rate changes and updates for Texas Medicaid Therapy Services effective December 15, 2016. The changes and updates will affect STAR, STAR Kids and CHIP programs. The rate cuts have been applied to our rates and we have been paid less for these services in State Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

Rate changes will be applied to the following provider types:

- Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility/Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORF/ORF)
- Home Health Agencies (HHA)
- Independent Therapists

(For more information, you may refer to the HHSC Rate Analysis web page at www.hhsc.state.tx/rad/rate-packets.shtml)

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) has closely monitored stakeholders' concerns regarding this rate change since its original proposal in 2015. To support our members and maintain a robust provider network, BCBSTX will delay application of therapy rate reductions to avoid retroactive recoveries. BCBSTX will implement this change April 1, 2017 effective for STAR, STAR Kids and CHIP. We will continue to monitor this issue and keep our members and providers apprised of developments.

As we near April 1, 2017, information regarding the administration of this rate change will be available on our BCBSTX Provider website, which can be found at <http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/medicaid/index.html>.

EviCore Update

We would also like to make you aware of changes in the BCBSTX Prior Authorization process, effective June 1, 2017. BCBSTX has contracted with eviCore healthcare (eviCore), an independent specialty medical benefits management company, to provide prior authorization for expanded outpatient and specialty utilization management for BCBSTX Medicaid members (STAR, STAR Kids and CHIP).

Effective June 1, 2017, eviCore will manage pre-service authorization for the following specialized clinical services:

- Outpatient Molecular Genetics
- Outpatient Radiation Therapy
- Musculoskeletal
 - Chiropractic
 - Physical and Occupational Therapy
 - Speech Therapy
 - Spine Surgery (Outpatient/Inpatient)
 - Spine Lumbar Fusion (Outpatient/Inpatient)
 - Interventional Pain
- Outpatient Cardiology & Radiology
 - Pediatric Abdomen Imaging
 - Pediatric Cardiac Imaging
 - Pediatric Chest Imaging
 - Pediatric Head Imaging
 - Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging
 - Pediatric Neck Imaging
 - Pediatric Oncology Imaging
 - Pediatric Pelvis Imaging
 - Pediatric Peripheral Nerve Disorders (Pnd) Imaging
 - Pediatric Peripheral Vascular Disease (Pvd) Imaging
 - Pediatric Spine Imaging
 - Abdomen Imaging
 - Cardiac Imaging
 - Chest Imaging
 - Head Imaging
 - Musculoskeletal
 - Neck Imaging
 - Obstetrical Ultrasound Imaging
 - Oncology Imaging
 - Pelvis Imaging
 - Peripheral Nerve Disorders (Pnd) Imaging
 - Peripheral Vascular Disease (Pvd) Imaging
 - Spine Imaging
- Outpatient Medical Oncology
- Outpatient Sleep
- Outpatient Specialty Drug

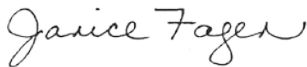
eviCore will have a portal for online requests such as are currently available with Availity and iExchange. Services performed without preauthorization may be denied for payment, and the rendering provider may not seek reimbursement from the member. The eviCore HealthCare Web Portal will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. After a one-time registration, you are able to initiate a case, check status, review guidelines, view authorizations/eligibility and more. The Web Portal is the quickest, most efficient way to obtain information. Providers can also call eviCore toll-free at **855-252-1117** between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Central Time) Monday through Friday.

You will continue to use current telephone and fax numbers as well as Availity® and iExchange® for all other services (not listed above) that require preauthorization.

BCBSTX and eviCore will be providing additional information, including training opportunities, in the coming months on the BCBSTX Provider website at bcbstx.com/provider and in *Blue Review*.

Our goal is always to provide our members with access to quality health care. If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Provider Network Representative (855) 212-1615 for assistance.

Sincerely,



Janice Fagen
Vice President
BCBSTX Medicaid Operations