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# **Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance Provider Information Session**

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**Medicaid and CHIP Services Department**  
***Summer 2017***

# Overview

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**At the end of this presentation, you will be able to answer the following questions:**

- What are the Department of Family and Protective Services Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance programs?
- What is managed care?
- Which managed care programs will serve Adoptions Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients?
- What is required of providers?
- How do clients pick a health plan and primary care provider?
- When will clients move to managed care?



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# Background

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- The 83rd Texas Legislature directed HHSC to move remaining Medicaid fee-for-service clients to Medicaid managed care.
- Currently, Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients receive Medicaid services through Medicaid fee-for-service.
- Most of these clients will move to Medicaid managed care **September 1, 2017**.



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# The Programs

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- DFPS operates Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance :
  - The Adoption Assistance program provides help for certain children who are adopted from foster care.
  - The Permanency Care Assistance program gives financial support to family members who provide a permanent home to children who were in foster care but could not be reunited with their parents.



# The Programs (cont.)

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- Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance may provide:
  - Medicaid coverage for the child.
  - Monthly cash assistance from DFPS.
  - A one-time reimbursement from DFPS for some legal expenses that come with adopting or becoming the managing conservator of a child.



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# What is Managed Care?

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- Managed care is healthcare provided through a network of doctors, hospitals and other providers responsible for managing and delivering quality, cost-effective care.
- The state pays a health plan a set rate for each member enrolled, rather than paying for each unit of service provided.



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# What are the Goals of Managed Care?

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- Emphasize preventive care
- Establish a medical home through a primary care provider, such as a doctor, nurse or clinic
- Improve access to care
- Make sure people receive the right amount of services
- Improve client and provider satisfaction
- Promote care in least restrictive, most appropriate setting
- Improve health outcomes, quality of care, and cost-effectiveness



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# Managed Care Programs in Texas

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- STAR
- STAR Kids
- STAR Health
- STAR+PLUS
- Texas Dual Eligible Integrated Care Project
  - Called the Dual Demonstration
- CHIP
- CHIP and Children's Medicaid Dental



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# How Many People get Medicaid?

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## Estimates for April 2017 show:

- 4,052,290 people enrolled in Texas Medicaid.
  - 3,721,169 of them are in managed care.
    - STAR – 2,961,227
    - STAR+PLUS – 520,844
    - STAR Health – 31,802
    - STAR Kids – 164,607
    - Dual Demonstration – 44,689
  - 331,122 clients enrolled in Medicaid fee-for-service.



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# What is a Health Plan?

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- Health plans provide a medical home through a main doctor, nurse, or clinic and referrals for specialty services as needed.
  - Exception: Clients who get Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible) get basic care services through Medicare.
- Health plans may offer extra services, also called “value-added services.”
  - Extra vision services
  - Health and wellness services



# What is STAR?

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- STAR is a managed care program for most people on Medicaid.
- STAR serves:
  - Children,
  - Low-income families,
  - Former foster care children
  - Pregnant women.
- As of Sept. 1, 2017, most children and youth in Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance will get services through STAR.



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# What are STAR Benefits?

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- The same Medicaid benefits you have today.
- Unlimited prescriptions.
- Unlimited necessary days in a hospital.
- A primary care provider (main doctor, nurse or clinic) to serve as medical home.
- Service management for certain members, including Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance.
- Value-added services.



# What is STAR Service Management?

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- A service performed by the health plan to do all of the following:
  - Develop a service plan, which includes a summary of current needs, a list of services required, and a description of who will provide those services.
  - Coordinate services among a member's primary care provider, specialty providers and non-medical providers.
- All Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance managed care members get service management.



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# What is STAR Kids?

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- STAR Kids is a managed care program for children and young adults 20 and younger who meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or SSI-related Medicaid
  - Are enrolled in Medicare
  - Get services through a 1915(c) waiver program
- As of Sept. 1, 2017, children and youth in Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance who meet the above criteria will get services through STAR Kids.



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# What are STAR Kids Benefits?

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- The same Medicaid benefits you have today
- Unlimited prescriptions
- Unlimited necessary days in a hospital
- A primary care provider (main doctor, nurse or clinic) to serve as medical home
- State Plan long-term services and supports, such as private duty nursing and personal care services
- Service coordination
- Extra services



# What is STAR Kids Service Coordination?

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- Specialized care service provided by health plan nurses and other professionals with necessary skills to coordinate care, including:
  - Identification of needs, such as, physical health, mental health, long-term services and supports.
  - Development of a person-centered service plan to address identified needs.
  - Making sure clients get the services they need when they need them.
  - Attention to addressing members' unique needs
  - Coordinating with other services when necessary.

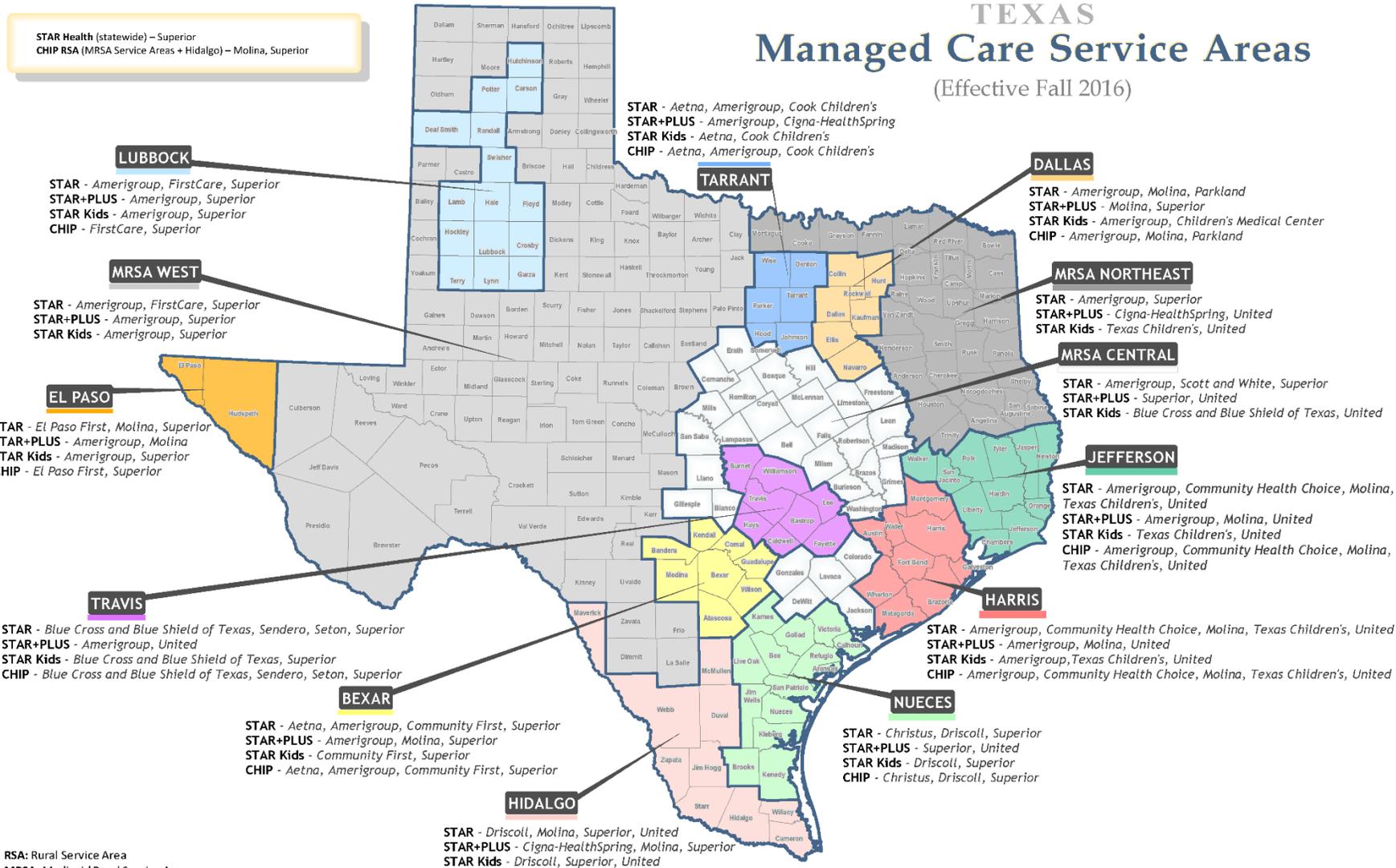


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# Managed Care Service Areas



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RSA: Rural Service Area  
MRSA: Medicaid Rural Service Area

# Who Will Be in STAR?

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- Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients who meet the following criteria will move to STAR on Sept. 1, 2017.
  - Don't get:
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
    - Medicare.
    - 1915(c) waiver services.
  - Don't have a disability as determined by the U.S. Social Security Administration or the State of Texas.
  - Don't live in:
    - A nursing facility.
    - An intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or related conditions (ICF/IID).



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# Who Will Be in STAR Kids?

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- Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients who meet the following criteria will move to STAR Kids on Sept. 1, 2017.
  - Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
  - Have a disability as determined by the U.S. Social Security Administration or the State of Texas.



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# How Will I Know What Plan My Patients Are In?

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- All STAR and STAR Kids members get a health plan ID card, in addition to a Your Texas Benefits Medicaid card from the state.
- The health plan ID card includes:
  - Member's name and Medicaid ID number
  - Medicaid program (e.g., STAR, STAR Kids)
  - Health plan name
  - Primary care provider name and phone number
  - Toll-free phone numbers for member services, service coordination, and behavioral health services hotline
  - Other information may be provided (e.g. date of birth, service area, Primary Care Provider address)



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# Continuity of Care

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- The state requires STAR and STAR Kids health plans to provide “continuity of care.”
  - Authorizations for basic care such as specialist visits and medical supplies are honored for 90 days, until the authorization expires or until the health plan issues a new one.
  - Authorizations for long-term services and supports are honored for six months or until a new assessment is completed.



# Continuity of Care (cont.)

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- The state requires STAR and STAR Kids health plans to provide “continuity of care.”
  - During the transition period, members can keep seeing current providers, even if they are out of the health plan’s network.
  - Providers don’t need to resubmit authorization requests to the health plans if an authorization is already in place.



# Will Current Services Be Covered In Managed Care?

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- Approved and active prior authorizations for covered services will be forwarded to the STAR or STAR Kids health plans before Sept. 1, 2017.
- These prior authorizations are subject to the ongoing care requirements discussed before.
- Providers don't need to resubmit authorization requests to the health plans if an authorization is already in place.



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# Provider Contracting

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- Providers must contract and be credentialed with a health plan to provide Medicaid managed care services.
- Rates are negotiated between the provider and the health plan.
- Authorization requirements and claims processing might be different between health plans.



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# Significant Traditional Providers

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- A significant traditional provider is a provider who has served Medicaid fee-for-service clients.
- Health plans must offer significant traditional providers the chance to be part of the contracted health plan network.
- Health plans will reach out to significant traditional providers.
  - The providers may initiate the contact.
- Significant traditional providers and health plans must agree on the conditions for contracting and credentialing.



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# What if the Provider is Out-of-Area?

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- Health plans must have an adequate network of providers and provide services members need inside their service area.
- Health plans may also pay providers outside their service area in certain situations:
  - Emergency services
  - To maintain ongoing care with an existing provider



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# Out-of-Network Providers

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- If providers choose not to contract with health plans in the service area, the providers won't be part of the health plans' provider networks.
- Sometimes, the health plans might be willing to sign a single-case agreement or enter into a limited contractual relationship.
  - This allows the provider to treat a single Medicaid patient.



# Provider Claims

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- Providers, including long-term service and support providers, must file claims within 95 days of the date of service.
- Health plans must adjudicate most clean claims within 30 days.
  - 18 days for electronic pharmacy claims.
  - 10 days for nursing facility claims.



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# Appeals and Fair Hearings

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- Members and providers may appeal to the health plan and file a fair hearing request with the state if services are denied, reduced or terminated.
- Services may continue during the review if the appeal or fair hearing is asked for on time and the member asks for continued services pending the appeal.



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# Provider Complaints

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- Providers must contact the health plan to file a complaint and exhaust the health plan's resolution process before filing a complaint with HHSC.
- Appeals, grievances, or dispute resolution is the responsibility of the health plans.
- Providers may file complaints with HHSC if they feel they don't receive full due process from the health plan or if they aren't satisfied with the health plan's determination.
- Providers can email:

**[HPM\\_complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:HPM_complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us)**



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# Complaints and Appeals

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- Health plans must use appropriately trained providers when reviewing all medically-based member appeals, such as:
  - Member appeals regarding a benefit denial or limitation.
- Health plans also have to resolve your complaints
- Common complaints:
  - Quality of care or services.
  - Accessibility or availability of services.
  - Claims processing – providers.



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# Complaint Contacts for Providers

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HHSC

HPM Complaints

P.O. Box 85200, MC H-320

Austin, TX 78758

**[HPM\\_Complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:HPM_Complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us)**

*Remember to follow HIPAA guidelines and always send patient information securely.*



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# Next Steps

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- Get to know the health plans operating in counties where you deliver services.
- Begin the contracting and credentialing process with the health plans as quickly as possible.
- Prepare to negotiate rates with the health plans
- Become familiar with your health plans' policies and procedures for prior authorizations and billing.



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# How Clients Choose a Health Plan

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- Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients moving to STAR or STAR Kids will get a packet in the mail with facts about the health plans in their area.
- Everyone will be able to pick from at least two health plans.
- Each health plan has a list of providers for clients to pick from.
- If clients don't pick, HHSC will assign a health plan and a primary care provider.
- Members can change their health plan at any time. Changes take 15-45 days to take effect.



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# Enrollment Activities

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- May 2017 – clients get introduction letters.
- June 2017 – clients get enrollment packets.
- July 2017 – clients who haven't picked a health plan get reminder letters.
- Aug. 14, 2017 – clients who don't pick a health plan are assigned to one:
  - Clients may change health plans at any time by contacting the enrollment broker.
- Sept. 1, 2017 – Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients will begin getting their services through a STAR or STAR Kids Health Plan.



# What If I Have Questions?

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- Learn more about the transition of Adoption Assistance and Permanency Care Assistance clients to STAR and STAR Kids at:

**[hhs.texas.gov/AAPCA](https://hhs.texas.gov/AAPCA)**

- Learn more about managed care at:

**[hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-and-chip/provider-information/expansion-managed-care](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-and-chip/provider-information/expansion-managed-care)**

- Send questions to:

**[managed\\_care\\_initiatives@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:managed_care_initiatives@hhsc.state.tx.us)**



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