# Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Payment Rates for STAR Kids/STAR Health MDCP Out-of-Home Respite

**Payment Rates for STAR Kids/STAR Health MDCP**
**Out-of-Home Respite**
**Retroactive to December 1, 2022**

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission**
**Provider Finance Department**

# SUMMARY OF PROPOSED STAR KIDS/STAR HEALTH MDCP OUT-OF-HOME RESPITE

**To be Effective Retroactive to December 1, 2022**

This document contains information relating to proposed payment rates for STAR Kids/STAR Health Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP) Out-of-Home Respite, retroactive to December 1, 2022.

## Hearing

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will conduct an in-person public hearing to receive comments on proposed payment rates at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2023.

The public hearing will be held in the HHSC North Austin Complex Building, Public Hearing Room 1.401, First Floor, at 4601 West Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX 78751. Free parking is available in the adjacent parking garage. The hearing will be held in compliance with Texas Human Resources Code Section 32.0282, which requires public notice of hearings on proposed Medicaid reimbursements. HHSC will consider feedback shared during the hearing before final rate approval. If you have any questions regarding the information in this document, please contact:

> Provider Finance Department, Long-term Services and Supports
> Texas Health and Human Services Commission
> Email: PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov

HHSC will archive the recorded public hearing. The recording can be accessed on-demand after the hearing on the HHS website.

## Background

This memorandum provides details, as appropriate, on proposed rate actions for a public rate hearing. Provider Finance Department (PFD) staff proposes to include STAR Kids/STAR Health MDCP Out-of-Home Respite rates as part

of the biennial fee review process. The proposed rates for STAR Kids/STAR Health MDCP Out-of-Home Respite are detailed in Attachment 1.

## Methodology

The proposed payment rates were determined according to Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code Section, Section 355.507, related to the Reimbursement Methodology for the Medically Dependent Children Program. HHSC is proposing per diem payment rates consistent with revised bill codes for MDCP Out-of-Home Respite effective December 1, 2022. The new rates will be based on 77 percent of the weighted average per diem methodological rates for nursing facilities using four daily rates based on only ventilator and tracheostomy needs. HHSC evaluated the current rate methodology for these services as part of the regular biennial fee review process.

## Written Comments

Written comments regarding the proposed payment rates may be submitted instead of, or in addition to, oral testimony until 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Written comments may be sent by U.S. mail to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Attention: Provider Finance Department, Mail Code H-400, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030; by fax to PFD at (512) 730-7475; or by email to PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov. In addition, written comments may be sent by overnight mail or hand delivered to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Attention: Provider Finance Department, Mail Code H-400, North Austin Complex, 4601 West Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX 78751.

Persons with disabilities who wish to attend the hearing and require auxiliary aids or services should contact HHSC PFD by calling (512) 730-7401 at least 72 hours before the hearing so appropriate arrangements can be made.

## Preferred Communication

Contact HHSC PFD by phone at (737) 867-7817 or by email at PFD-LTSS@hhs.texas.gov if you have any questions regarding the information in this document.

# Attachment 1

**Table 1. Proposed Rates for STAR Kids/STAR Health MDCP Out-of-Home Respite.**

| Service Description | Bill Code | Modifier | Unit | Average Current Rate* | Proposed Rate | Average Rate Change % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Respite Care, not hospice | 661 | | per diem | $ 96.67 | $ 199.10 | 106% |
| Respite Care, not hospice, with partial vent | 661 | U1 | per diem | $ 134.03 | $ 280.42 | 109% |
| Respite Care, not hospice, with full vent | 661 | U2 | per diem | $ 190.08 | $ 399.40 | 110% |
| Respite Care, not hospice, with trach | 661 | U3 | per diem | $ 153.79 | $ 319.28 | 108% |

**Average current rates were calculated by averaging across RUG groups and multiplying by 24 to convert from hourly to per diem units.*