

STAR Kids Medicaid HMO

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) would like to extend the opportunity for participation as a provider in the new “STAR Kids” Medicaid Managed Care Program. STAR Kids will be the first Medicaid managed care program specifically serving youth and children who get disability related Medicaid. Beginning Sept. 1, 2016, children and youth age 20 or younger who either receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid or are enrolled in the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) will receive services through a STAR Kids health plan. Children and youth who receive services through other 1915(c) waiver programs will receive their basic health services (acute care) through STAR Kids. Children, youth, and their families will have the choice of at least two STAR Kids health plans and will have the option to change plans. BCBSTX intends to bid to provide STAR Kids services on behalf of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Currently these children and young adults are in the fee-for-service HHSC program. The operational start date of the new program is **September 1, 2016** but we are required to submit our participating provider list to HHSC by mid-October, 2014. If HHSC awards a bid to BCBSTX to provide managed care services for the STAR Kids Program it will include but is not limited to network development, provider contracting and education, and coordination with provider and treatment facilities. Your network participation will ensure the success of this new important program.

In order to participate in STAR KIDS Medicaid HMO physicians/professional providers:

- Must be an attested/ enrolled provider in Texas Medicaid Health Partnership TMHP) with a TPI;
- Must have privileges at a participating STAR Kids HMO hospital (unless inpatient admissions are uncommon or not required for the physician's/professional provider's specialty). If you do not have active admitting privileges at a participating STAR Kids HMO hospital, you may sign and return a Hospital Coverage Letter to indicate that you will refer STAR Kids HMO members to a participating physician or hospitalist who has active admitting privileges at a participating STAR Kids HMO hospital;
- Must have a valid National Provider Identifier (NPI) Number; and
- Cannot have opted-out of Medicaid or have any sanctions or reprimands by any licensing authority or review organizations.

To find out more information about participation in the BCBSTX STAR Kids program, go to <http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/medicaid/index.html> or contact Dee Culver at 512-349-4899.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the STAR Program?

A: STAR is the Medicaid State of Texas Access Reform program, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) primary managed care program for Medicaid Eligibles. BCBSTX is contracted with HHSC to provide STAR program services in the Travis service area.

Q: What is the CHIP Program?

A: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) program to help Texas families obtain affordable coverage for their uninsured children (from birth through the month of their 19th birthday). CHIP Members in urban areas are serviced through health maintenance organizations (HMOs) licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). BCBSTX is contracted with HHSC to provide CHIP program services in the Travis service area.

Q: What is the STAR Kids Program?

A: STAR Kids will be the first Medicaid managed care program specifically serving youth and children who get disability-related Medicaid. Beginning Sept. 1, 2016, children and youth age 20 or younger who either receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid or are enrolled in the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) will receive all of their services through a STAR Kids health plan. Children and youth who receive services through other 1915(c) waiver programs will receive their basic health services (acute care) through STAR Kids. Children, youth, and their families will have the choice of at least two STAR Kids health plans and will have the option to change plans. BCBSTX intends to bid to provide STAR Kids services on behalf of HHSC.

Q: Why am I being asked to participate by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) at this time?

A: Your network participation will ensure the success of the STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO programs.

Q: I am already a STAR and/or CHIP participating provider. Do I still need to sign and return the amendment?

A: If you are already a STAR and CHIP provider in the Travis Area you are being asked to amend your agreement to accept STAR Kids members in addition to the population of STAR and CHIP members that you already serve. If you are not already a STAR and CHIP provider, we are asking you to consider participation in all three programs.

Q: What if I have multiple physicians or locations? Is an agreement required for each physician, hospital and/or location?

A: An administrator or other verifiable signature authority must sign one amendment for all health care providers and locations operating under the same tax identification number.

Q: What are the benefits of being a network provider?

A: Network providers get the satisfaction of knowing that they are providing high-quality care and service to qualifying individuals for STAR, STAR Kids (ages 0 to 21st birthday) and CHIP (ages 0 to 19th birthday). As a contracted provider, Provider Relations Representatives are available to assist you.

Q: What is the reimbursement rate for network providers?

A: 100% of the reimbursement rate posted on the TMHP website for all procedures for which Medicaid has a reimbursement rate. Payment of compensation shall be in accordance with applicable policies and procedures posted in the Provider Manual on the BCBSTX Medicaid, CHIP and STAR Kids website: www.bcbstx.com/provider/medicaid/. Such fees shall be payment in full for services rendered except for applicable copayments for CHIP. There are no co-pays, deductibles or coinsurance for STAR or STAR Kids.

Q: I understand that there are HHSC Mandated Provisions in addition to the BCBSTX agreement provisions. Where can I find information about the HHSC Mandated Provisions?

A: Yes, although those requirements are yet to be defined since STAR Kids is a new program. BCBSTX will deliver an amendment revising Attachment X to include STAR Kids prior to the launch in September 2016.

Q: If I choose not to participate in the network, will this affect my participation in other BCBSTX provider networks?

A: No. Participation in the network is requested but not required.

Q: If I am already participating in a BCBSTX network, is any additional credentialing required?

A: Additional credentialing is not required if you are already credentialed in a BCBSTX network and if your credentialing is current.

Q: Are privileges at a STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO hospital required?

A: Yes, privileges at a STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO hospital are required. If you do not have active admitting privileges at a participating STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO hospital, you may sign and return a Hospital Coverage Letter to indicate that you will refer STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO members to a participating physician or hospitalist who has active admitting privileges at a STAR Medicaid HMO, CHIP HMO and STAR Kids HMO hospital.

Q: Where can I go to find out more information about participation in BCBSTX Medicaid, CHIP and STAR Kids programs?

A: Go to www.bcbstx.com/provider/medicaid/index.html

Q: Who do I call if I have questions?

A: Please feel free to contact your Provider Relations Representative at **855-547-1388** if you have any further questions regarding this program.