

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

**STAR Kids, STAR Health, STAR+PLUS, MMPs: Notice of STAR+PLUS
Handbook Revision 25-3 and Clinical Guides**

Background for STAR+PLUS Handbook Revisions:

The STAR+PLUS Handbook contains HHSC-approved policies and procedures related to the STAR+PLUS Program. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) periodically updates the Handbook to reflect policy changes. HHSC informs STAR+PLUS managed care organizations (MCOs) and Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) of these updates before publication.

Background for Clinical Guides:

The Patient Driven Payment Model Long-Term Care (PDPM LTC) will replace the current Nursing Facility (NF) reimbursement model, the Resource Utilization Group (RUG), effective September 1, 2025. Due to federal requirements in [Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) §441.302\(e\)](#) and [\(f\)](#), changing the NF reimbursement model from the RUG to the PDPM LTC requires HHSC to incorporate the PDPM LTC model into the cost limit methodologies for the NF waiver programs, Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) and STAR+PLUS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Implementing the PDPM LTC model for MDCP and STAR+PLUS HCBS requires modifying the STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SK-SAI) and STAR+PLUS Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN/LOC) assessments to add the fields needed to calculate the PDPM LTC score.

Key Details for STAR+PLUS Handbook Revisions:

This notice informs MCOs and MMPs of STAR+PLUS Handbook revision 25-3, effective September 1, 2025. The revision updates several sections and forms. A summary of the changes is provided in the attached Revision Notice document.

Key Details for Clinical Guides:

HHSC updated the MN/LOC Item-by-Item Guide and SK-SAI Service Coordinator Manual (clinical guides) to reflect the change from RUG to PDPM LTC.

Resources:

[STAR+PLUS Handbook | Texas Health and Human Services](#)
25-3 Revision Notice (attached)

Questions?

Contact: managed_care_initiatives@hhs.texas.gov

Additional questions, please contact UnitedHealthcare Customer Service at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.

25-3, Updates Multiple Sections in Handbook

Revision Notice 25-3; Effective Sept. 1, 2025

The following change(s) were made:

Section	Title	Change
1132.2	Requirements for HCBS Settings	Updates section.
1139.2	Door Locks	Updates section.
1139.8	Modifications to HCBS Settings Rule Requirements	Updates section.
1260	Person-Centered Practices	Adds section.
1261	Services Subject to Person Centered Service Planning Rules Requirements	Adds section.
1262	Requirements for the Person-Centered Planning Process	Adds section.
1263	Requirements for the Person-Centered Service Plan	Adds section.
1264	Additional Requirements for the Person-Centered Service Plan for STAR+PLUS HCBS Members	Adds section.
1265	Requirements for the Review of Person-Centered Service Plan	Adds section.
3241	Medical Necessity Determination	Updates section.
3241.1	Medical Necessity Determination for Applicants Residing in Nursing Facilities	Updates section.
3312.1	Enrollment Procedures Following Release from the Interest List	Updates section.
3316	Requests for STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program from Participants in 1915(c) Medicaid Waivers	Updates section.
3411	STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program Member Transferring to Another Service Area with Prior Knowledge	Updates section.
3412	STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program Member Transferring to Another Service Area Without Prior Knowledge	Updates section.
3413	STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program Member Transferring from One MCO to Another Within the Same Service Area	Updates section.
3421.4	Within 45 Days of Receiving Notification of a Form H3676 Referral	Updates section.
3421.5	Confirm STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program Eligibility	Updates section.
3421.6	Individual Service Plan Cost Exceeds 202 Percent of the PDPM LTC Cost Limit	Updates section.
3514	STAR+PLUS Members Residing in a Facility	Updates section.

3514.1	Transition to Community with STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services Program	Updates section.
3515	Non-STAR+PLUS Members Residing in a Nursing Facility	Updates section.
3517.3	Relocation Housing Coordination	Updates section.
3522	Screening Criteria for Money Follows the Person Demonstration Eligibility	Updates section.
3522.1	Screening for 60-Day Qualifying Institutional Stay	Updates section.
3522.2	Notification of Admission and Discharge Dates	Updates section.
3523	Enrollment in Money Follows the Person Demonstration	Updates section.
3524	Money Follows the Person Demonstration Entitlement Period Tracking	Updates section.
3610	Revising the Individual Service Plan	Updates section.
3632.6	Denial or Termination Due to Exceeding the ISP Cost Limit	Updates section.
4522	New Assessment Required by Fair Hearing Decision	Updates section.
5110	MCOHub Naming Convention and File Maintenance	Updates section.
5310	Using the TMHP Long Term Care Online Portal	Updates section.
6114	Service Plan	Updates section.
6116	Refusal to Serve Members	Updates section.
6117	Service Planning	Updates section.
6220	Nursing Services to Meet Member Needs	Updates section.
7155	Authorization of Adult Foster Care	Updates section.
7223	Admission to an Assisted Living Facility	Updates section.
8245	Budgets	Updates section.
Appendix VII	Acronyms	Updates Appendix.
Appendix X	STAR+PLUS HCBS Cost Limits	Updates Appendix.

The following forms were added or revised in the STAR+PLUS Handbook:

Form 1701 and instructions	Support Plan Narrative	Adds new form.
Form H1700-1 and instructions	Individual Service Plan	Updates form.
Form H1700-2 and instructions	Individual Service Plan-Addendum	Updates form.

Form H1700-3	Individual Service Plan-Signature Page	Updates form.
Form H6516	Community First Choice Assessment	Updates form.