STAR Kids Managed Care Program to Begin
November 1, 2016

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STAR Kids, a new managed care program that will serve clients who are twenty years of age and younger who previously received disability-related Medicaid through STAR+PLUS or fee-for-service, will begin on November 1, 2016. STAR Kids will deliver basic medical services and long term services and supports, such as personal care services or private duty nursing, through a health plan selected by the client. Medically Dependent Children’s Program (MDCP) services will also be delivered by STAR Kids.

A core component of the STAR Kids program will be the [STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SK-SAI)] that health plans will use to determine each client’s needs as they relate to health and independent living. The SK-SAI will replace the Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN/LOC) Assessment for STAR Kids clients.

Each service delivery area in the state will have at least two health plans that will provide services through the STAR Kids program. These STAR Kids health plans are building provider networks by contracting with providers who serve Medicaid clients, including the following providers:

- Primary care
- Community-based long term services and supports, including:
  - Private Duty Nursing (PDN)
  - Personal Care Services (PCS)
  - Community First Choice (CFC)
  - MDCP services, such as respite
- Behavioral health and mental health, including substance use disorder (SUD)
- Pharmacy
- Durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies
- Other provider types, including pediatric specialists

Providers currently delivering these services are encouraged to become familiar with the STAR Kids health plans operating in their counties, and to begin the contracting and credentialing process with these health plans as soon as possible. Providers can contact the [STAR Kids provider relations] staff with questions about joining a health plan.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will begin sending STAR Kids communications to clients in July 2016. These communications will include STAR Kids provider directories. To be included in these directories, providers must have completed the health plan contracting and credentialing process. The following is the STAR Kids communication schedule:

- July 2016 – Introduction Letters (general information about STAR Kids)
- August 2016 – Enrollment packets (including STAR Kids provider directories and instructions for picking a STAR Kids health plan)
- September 2016 – Reminder letters (for clients who have not chosen a health plan)

For more information on STAR Kids, including upcoming HHSC provider information sessions, visit the [STAR Kids] web page.