



April 4, 2024

Ms. Jamie John
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop S2-25-26
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. John,

On May 25, 2022, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) submitted Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program (THTQIP) Demonstration Amendment 22 requesting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval to allow HHSC to add an additional four months of postpartum Medicaid eligibility for women for a total of six months postpartum coverage. HHSC requested this amendment to implement House Bill 133, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

Subsequently the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 12, (88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023) requiring 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage. On October 20, 2023, HHSC submitted a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to CMS which was approved by CMS on January 17, 2024 with a March 1, 2024 effective date.

During the monthly 1115 monitoring call held with CMS on January 25, 2024, HHSC verbally inquired about options available to align the 1115 THTQIP Demonstration with the SPA allowing for twelve months of

Ms. John
April 4, 2024
Page 2

postpartum Medicaid coverage. CMS indicated a technical correction to the 1115 THTQIP Demonstration and withdrawal of the amendment request would be preferred.

HHSC respectfully requests the withdrawal of THTQIP Amendment 22 effective immediately.

Additionally, HHSC is requesting a technical correction to the THTQIP Demonstration waiver. To align with HHSC's implementation of 12-months postpartum Medicaid coverage through the state plan effective March 1, 2024, HHSC requests the following technical correction:

In Table 4a. State Plan Services for STAR, STAR+PLUS and STAR Kids participants, HHSC requests the following language be added to the list of State Plan Services: "Continuous postpartum coverage for the period beginning the first day after the end of the mandatory 60-day postpartum coverage period and ending the last day of the month in which the 12-month postpartum period (beginning on the last day of pregnancy) ends."

HHSC requests the effective date of this technical correction be retroactive to March 1, 2024 to align with the Medicaid SPA effective date.

Kathi Montalbano, Director, Federal Coordination, Rules and Committees, is the lead staff on this matter and can be contacted by telephone at 512-438-4330 or by e-mail at kathi.montalbano@hhs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Emily Zalkovsky
State Medicaid Director