

Adults get access to substance use disorder treatment through Medicaid

Adults with Medicaid who are trying to stop using drugs or alcohol can now get more thorough treatment through Medicaid.

Treatment for substance use disorder has long been available for those age 20 and younger with Medicaid. What's new are similar benefits for those with Medicaid who are age 21 and older. In 2009, the Texas Legislature directed HHSC to implement a comprehensive benefit package for adults with Medicaid who have a substance abuse disorder, and to clarify the existing benefits for children needing similar treatment. Previously, Medicaid coverage for substance abuse treatment for adults was limited to some hospital-based detoxification and mental health services such as psychotherapy.

Starting today (Sept. 1, 2010), adults can get access to outpatient treatment services such as counseling and medication assisted therapy. Residential treatment like detoxification will be available after Jan. 1, 2011.

Those interested in getting the new outpatient services first must be assessed by a licensed chemical dependency facility. Those in the STAR and STAR+PLUS programs can call their health plan or the plan's behavioral health hotline. Those in PCCM or fee-for-service Medicaid can call their program's client helpline:

- PCCM Client Helpline: 1-888-302-6688
- Fee-for-service Medicaid: 1-800-252-8263
- STAR and STAR+PLUS clients: Call your health plan

Those looking to access services can also call a substance abuse provider in their community to see if the provider takes Medicaid.

For providers, [rate information](#) is available on the TMHP website. The site also has [more specifics for providers](#) looking to get reimbursed for services.

More general information on the new treatment benefits for adults is on the [HHSC website](#).