



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER

Anne Heiligenstein

To: Residential Contractors

From: Audrey Deckinga
Assistant Commissioner, Child Protective Services

Subject: Medical Transportation Program

Date: May 26, 2009

The purpose of this letter is to clarify that all Medicaid-eligible children in DFPS conservatorship placed with your operation or agency are eligible for the Texas Medicaid's Medical Transportation Program (MTP) when no other means of transportation is available. MTP will provide transportation for the child and one caregiver to and from a Medicaid-allowable healthcare service (i.e., all medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services that are covered by Medicaid or provided by STAR Health). This eligibility applies regardless of the license-type of your operation [i.e., child placing agency (CPA), general residential operation (GRO), or residential treatment center RTC)].

MTP Benefit

The MTP benefit is limited to situations when no other means of transportation is available at the time of the healthcare appointment. Examples of the MTP benefit include, but are not limited to, the following and apply to CPAs, GROs, RTCs:

- A child has an appointment in another town or a long distance away. Your vehicles are being used for other purposes, so you do not have one available to transport the child to the health care appointment;
- A child has an appointment that occurs daily or several times a week. Your vehicles are being used for other purposes, so do not have one available to transport the child to the health care appointment;
- A child has an appointment or needs to be hospitalized in another town or a long distance away. No funding to pay for transportation, overnight lodging, or meals for the child and a caregiver is available;
- Your operation or a foster parent is managing multiple children with a number of healthcare appointments. You do not have a vehicle available to transport all of the children to their appointments; or
- A child has an appointment at a local clinic. Your vehicle is not available because it is being used for an emergency or it is in need of repairs.

Note: MTP requires advanced notice in order to arrange transportation.

Services Provided by MTP

MTP services include prearranged vehicle pickup and public transportation. Foster parents may also be eligible for mileage reimbursement when providing transportation for a child to a medical appointment that has been approved by MTP in advance; however, GROs and RTCs are NOT eligible for mileage reimbursement.

In some cases MTP may pay for overnight lodging and meals for children younger than 21 years and the person with whom they are traveling.

For children enrolled in STAR Health, the child's service coordinator or service manager may help foster parents or a representative from your operation or agency set up services with MTP. A foster parent or a representative from your operation or agency may also call the MTP toll-free number, 877-633-8747, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The foster parent or representative provides the following information:

- The child's Medicaid and Social Security numbers;
- The medical provider's name, address and phone;
- The date and time of the healthcare appointment; and
- The healthcare service being provided.

For more information on the services available through the Medical Transportation Program, visit the HHSC website at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/QuickAnswers/index.shtml#Get_Ride

Services Not Provided by MTP

The following are examples of transportation not covered by MTP.

- Transportation to a non-medical or non-dental visit including, reunification with immediate or extended family, or placement with a new operation or agency;
- Transportation of deceased children;
- Use of public transportation for other children in a home who do not have a healthcare appointment but are traveling with a child who has a health care appointment and his/her caregiver;
- Transportation of children to services that are not covered by Medicaid; and
- Emergency or non-emergency ambulance service

For additional information about MTP benefits, please see the HHSC website at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/QuickAnswers/index.shtml#Get_Ride.

Thank you for serving our children. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Residential Contracts staff:

Kathy Teutsch	512/438-4164
Kathy Keenan	512/438-5048