

STAR, STAR Kids and STAR+Plus: Medicaid Managed Care Aligning Technology by Linking Interoperable Systems (ATLIS) for Client Health Outcomes Program MCO Confirmation of Network Status.

Background:

Managed care organizations (MCOs) submitted their lists of in-network hospitals using the ATLIS Data Reporting Tool on October 15, 2024. According to the initially published timeline for ATLIS, HHSC expected to validate and update the lists of in-network hospitals and send those lists back to MCOs by November 15, 2024, along with the number of encounters by each of the participating hospitals.

However, HHSC determined additional review was needed to validate each MCO's list of in-network participating hospitals. HHSC has obtained input from hospitals to verify network status with various Medicaid-MCOs as of October 1, 2024.

Attached to this notice, HHSC has combined the hospital responses and asks that each MCO confirms all hospital network statuses before the network statuses are locked in the ATLIS Data Reporting Tool. In Column L of the "*MCO ATLIS Network Status Validation*" workbook, MCOs should confirm hospital network status as either in-network or out-of-network. HHSC has compiled information from the MCO's initial responses, the claims system, and the hospital responses for quick reference. MCO's responses are due back to HHSC on or before December 12, 2024, and will be submitted by email to PFD_Hospitals@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Once HHSC receives MCO responses, those responses will be loaded into each MCO's Data Reporting Tool, and the data reporting tools will be locked. The locked Data Reporting Tool will be returned to MCOs for data collection on December 13, 2024.

As a reminder, the deadline for MCOs to submit the first Qualitative Assessment is January 15, 2025. Therefore, HHSC recommends that MCOs promptly begin completing the ATLIS Data Reporting Tool based on the in-network hospital lists each MCO provided to HHSC on October 15, 2024. MCOs should also be aware that additional hospitals may be added to or removed from the ATLIS Data Reporting Tool once HHSC's validation process is complete. MCOs will be required to submit to HHSC the ATLIS Data Reporting Tool that contains the validated list of hospitals.

Expected Timeline:

- Nov. 19–27, 2024: Hospitals verified network status.
- Dec. 5–12, 2024: MCOs confirm network status.
- Dec. 13, 2024: HHSC returns the locked Data Reporting Tools to MCOs for hospital data collection.
- Jan. 15, 2025: Completed ATLIS Data Reporting Tools due back from MCOs to HHSC.

MCOs are encouraged to contact HHSC with any questions addressed to Provider Finance PFD_Hospitals@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Key Details:

HHSC seeks responses from MCOs on or before December 12, 2024, to validate all hospital network statuses. After December 12, 2024 network statuses will be locked for the ATLIS state fiscal year 2025 program year.

Important note: MCOs should confirm provider network status as of October 1, 2024, based upon a network agreement between the MCO and the hospital for the managed care program (e.g., STAR, STAR Plus, STAR Kids). The network status should be completed without regard to any agreements an MCO may or may not have entered into with a hospital (or a hospital representative) related to any quality incentive payment(s).

Resources:

MCO ATLIS Network Status Validation.xlsx (attached)

Contact:

Provider Finance PFD_Hospitals@hhsc.state.tx.us.