

Core & Support Services - Local Service Category Definitions

CORE SERVICES

Ambulatory Outpatient Primary Care: Services include on-site physician, physician extender, nursing, phlebotomy, radiographic, laboratory, pharmacy, intravenous therapy, home health care referral, licensed dietician, patient medication education, and patient care coordination. The Provider must provide continuity of care with inpatient services and subspecialty services (either on-site or through specific referral to appropriate medical provider upon primary care Physician's order).

Case Management-Clinical: Identifying and screening clients who are accessing HIV-related services from a clinical delivery system that provides Mental Health treatment/counseling and/or Substance Abuse treatment services; assessing each client's medical and psychosocial history and current service needs; developing and regularly updating a clinical service plan based upon the client's needs and choices; implementing the plan in a timely manner; providing information, referrals and assistance with linkage to medical and psychosocial services as needed; monitoring the efficacy and quality of services through periodic reevaluation; advocating on behalf of clients to decrease service gaps and remove barriers to services helping clients develop and utilize independent living skills and strategies. Assist clients in obtaining needed resources, including bus pass vouchers and gas cards.

Case Management-Medical: Services include screening all primary medical care patients to determine each patient's level of need for Medical Case Management services, performing a comprehensive assessment and developing a medical service plan for each client that demonstrates a documented need for such services, monitoring medical service plan to ensure its implementation, and educating client regarding wellness, medication and health care compliance. The Medical Case Manager serves as an advocate for the client and as a liaison with medical providers on behalf of the client. The Medical Case Manager ensures linkage to mental health, substance abuse and other client services as indicated by the medical service plan. The Medical Case Manager will perform, or contribute to, Readiness Assessments in order to assess a patient's readiness for HAART.

Home Health Care: The provision of services in the home by licensed health care workers, such as nurses, and the administration of intravenous and aerosolized treatment, parenteral feeding, diagnostic testing and other medical therapies.

Hospice Services: Hospice services, including services provided by unlicensed personnel under the delegation of a registered nurse or physical therapist, provided to a client or client's family as part of a coordinated program consistent with the standards and rules adopted under this chapter. These services include palliative care for terminally ill clients and support services for clients and their families.

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Local Medication Assistance Program (LPAP): LPAP provides pharmaceuticals to patients otherwise ineligible for medications through private insurance, Medicaid/Medicare, State ADAP, SPAP or other sources. Allowable medications are those on the current Texas ADAP formulary and Houston EMA Ryan White Part A Formulary. Eligible clients may be provided Fuzeon™ on a case-by-case basis. The cost of Fuzeon™ does not count against a client's annual maximum. Does not include drugs available free of charge (such as birth control and TB medications) or medications available over the counter (OTC) without prescription.

Medical Nutritional Therapy and Nutritional Supplements: *Nutritional Therapy* is provision of professional (licensed registered dietitian) education/counseling concerning the therapeutic importance of foods and nutritional supplements that are beneficial to the wellness and improved health conditions of clients. Medically, it is expected that symptomatic or mildly symptomatic clients will be seen once every 12 weeks while clients with higher acuity will be seen once every 6 weeks. Services must be provided under written order from a state licensed medical provider (MD, DO or PA) with prescribing privileges and must be based on a written nutrition plan developed by a licensed registered dietitian. *Nutritional Supplements* provides up to a 90-day supply at any given time, per client. There are no restrictions on the type of supplements that can be provided, so long as the supplement is prescribed by a State licensed physician or physician assistant (PA). Nutritional counseling must be provided for each disbursement of nutritional supplements.

Mental Health Services: The provision of 1:1 or family-based crisis intervention and/or mental health therapy provided by a licensed mental health practitioner to an eligible HIV positive or HIV/AIDS affected individual.

Oral Health: Restorative dental services, oral surgery, root canal therapy, fixed and removable prosthodontics; periodontal services includes subgingival scaling, gingival curettage, osseous surgery, gingivectomy, provisional splinting, laser procedures and maintenance. Oral medication (including pain control) for HIV patients 15 years old or older must be based on a comprehensive individual treatment plan. Prosthodontics services to HIV-infected individuals including, but not limited to examinations and diagnosis of need for dentures, diagnostic measurements, laboratory services, tooth extractions, relines and denture repairs.

Substance Abuse Treatment: Treatment and/or counseling of HIV-infected individuals with substance abuse disorders delivered in accordance with State licensing guidelines.

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Child Care: The provision of care for the children of clients who are HIV+ while the clients are attending medical or other appointments or attending Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program-related meetings, groups or training. This does not include child care while the client is at work.

Child Welfare Services: The provision of family preservation/unification, foster care, parenting education, and other child welfare services. Services may be designed to prevent break-up of a family and to reunite family members. Also includes foster care assistance to place children under the age of 21 years, whose parents are unable to care for them, in temporary or permanent homes and to sponsor programs for foster families. This category includes other services related to juvenile court proceedings, liaison to child protective services, involvement with child abuse and neglect investigations and proceedings, or actions to terminate parents' rights.

Developmental Assessment: The provision of professional early intervention services by physicians, developmental psychologists, educators and others in the psychosocial and intellectual development of infants and children. These services involve the assessment of an infant or a child's developmental status and needs in relation to the education system, including early assessment of educational intervention services. They include comprehensive assessment, taking into account the effects of chronic conditions associated with HIV, drug exposure and other factors. Provision of information about access to Head Start services, appropriate educational settings for HIV-affected clients and education/assistance to schools.

Emergency Financial Assistance: The provision of short-term payments to agencies or the establishment of voucher programs to assist with emergency expenses related to essential utilities, housing, food (including groceries, food vouchers and food stamps), and medication, when other resources are not available.

Employment Assistance: The facilitation of entry or re-entry into the workplace in a way that is appropriate to one's health status, work experience, disability benefit status, needs and desires. It includes the provision of GED training and other educational programs, resume writing training, work history evaluations, skills assessments, and job search training.

Day/Respite Care for Adults (Home Community Based Health Services-Facility-Based): A day treatment program that includes Physician ordered therapeutic nursing, supportive and/or compensatory health services based on a written plan of care established by an interdisciplinary care team that includes appropriate healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals. Services include skilled nursing, nutritional counseling, evaluations and education, and additional therapeutic services and activities. Inpatient hospitals services, nursing

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home and other long-term care facilities are NOT included.

Food Bank: The provision of food and related grocery items through a vouchering program. Items may include personal hygiene, paper products, cleaning supplies and diapers. This service does not provide food to affected persons and individuals who are caregivers for HIV/AIDS infected persons in the household. Tobacco, liquor and pet food or pet products may not be purchased with funds.

HIV Education for HIV+ Individuals: The provision of services that educate clients living with HIV about HIV transmission and how to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. It includes the provision of information about medical and psychosocial support services and counseling to help clients living with HIV improve their health status.

Household Items: The pickup, delivery and storage of donated items that include, but are not limited to, furniture, small appliances, kitchen utensils, bathroom accessories and linens, to be distributed to clients.

Housing-Related Services: Housing-related referral services include assessment, search, placement, advocacy and the fees associated with them.

Legal Services: Comprehensive legal and permanency planning services provided to HIV-infected individuals and/or their legal representatives by an Attorney licensed to practice in Texas.

Referral to Clinical Research: The provision of education about and linkages to clinical research services through academic research institutions or other research service providers. Clinical research refers to studies in which new treatments—drugs, diagnostics, procedures, vaccines, and other therapies—are tested in people to see if they are safe and effective. All institutions that conduct or support biomedical research involving people must, by Federal regulation, have an institutional review board that initially approves and periodically reviews the research.

Referrals to Services: The act of directing a client to a service in person or through telephone, written, or other type of communication. Referrals may be made within the non-medical case management system by professional case managers, informally through support staff, or as part of an outreach program.

Rental Assistance/Shelter Vouchers: The provision of short-term assistance to support emergency, temporary or transitional housing to enable an individual or family to gain or maintain medical care.

Support Groups: Professionally led (licensed therapists or counselor) groups that comprise HIV positive individuals, family members, or

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significant others for the purpose of providing emotional support directly related to the stress of caring for an HIV positive person.

Translation/Interpretation (Linguistics Services): The provision of interpreter services including, but not limited to, sign language for deaf and/or hard of hearing and native language interpretation for monolingual HIV positive clients. Services exclude Spanish translation services.

Medical Transportation: Provides essential transportation services to HRSA-defined Core Services through the use of individual employee or contract drivers with vehicles/vans to Ryan White Program eligible individuals residing in Houston EMA/HSDA counties. Essential transportation is defined as transportation to public and private outpatient medical care and physician services, substance abuse and mental health services, pharmacies and other services where eligible clients receive Ryan White-defined Core Services and/or medical and health-related care services, including clinical trials, essential to their well-being. The program provides taxi vouchers to eligible clients only in the following cases: to access emergency shelter vouchers or to attend social security disability hearings; van service is unavailable due to breakdown or inclement weather; client's medical need requires immediate transport; scheduling conflicts.