



**Dear Administrative Agency (AA), Planning staff, and service providers, see below for important announcements:**

- 1) Marketplace Plan and Dental Insurance Premiums
- 2) Upcoming HIV/STD Conference Registration
- 3) Upcoming FUNdamentals Information
- 4) Medications Added to THMP Formulary
- 5) New Care Guidelines for Achieving Viral Suppression
- 6) Follow the Numbers to Vaccinate Clients for Pneumonia Prevention

## **Programmatic News Flash**

### **1. Marketplace Plan and Dental Insurance Premiums: Health Insurance Continuation and Cost Sharing Assistance**

To provide flexibility and ensure continuity of coverage, DSHS has issued the following program guidance:

- There will be no 'cap' on assistance for clients who were enrolled in HIA prior to 09/01/17 and have continuously maintained enrollment with no change in their circumstances pertinent to HIA eligibility (e.g. income, dependents) per the enrollee's eligibility documentation.
- Administrative Agencies (AAs) may use the standardized estimates listed below to make cost comparisons for both health insurance and dental insurance assistance across the state. For otherwise eligible consumers who were enrolled after 09/01/17 and for all new or returning clients the caps are:
  - \*Statewide standardized estimate for covered clinical services: \$10,000
  - \*Statewide standardized estimate for oral health services: \$2,000
- Statewide HIA cap data was calculated based upon FY 2017 reported allocations submitted by AAs and other directly-funded grantees and may be used when determining the cost effectiveness of insurance enrollment for 2018/2019. Local areas may set a lower cap number using their actual clinical services expenditure data consistent with policy 270.001. If you want to obtain local service expenditure contact Jessica Conly [Jessica.Only@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Only@dshs.texas.gov)
- These estimates are intended to offer Planning Bodies and AAs flexibility to craft their local HIA policies and allocations to best meet the need of consumers utilizing or seeking HIA services in their respective areas.

## 2. Register Now for The 2018 HIV/STD Conference

- 2018 Texas HIV-STD Conference: November 27-29, 2018 at the JW Marriott Hotel, Austin, Texas: The goal of the 2018 Texas HIV/STD Conference is to educate and inform HIV/STD health professionals who serve Texans living with and affected by HIV and other STDs. Conference details, agenda and registration available at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/conference/2018/>
- Registration can be completed anytime from now until the conference date itself, at the door. Requests for refunds received after Nov 5<sup>th</sup> will incur a \$50 processing fee. Complete payment details can be found at the above link.

## 3. FUNdamentals Updates

- Overview: "FUNdamentals" is the name of a series of monthly, hour long webinars, covering pertinent issues for care services staff. During each call, an expert gives a short, didactic presentation, followed by ~45 minutes of facilitated Q&A from attendees. These calls are a great way to get useful information that is pertinent to a range of HIV care services staff, so please look out for invites from one of the hosts!
- Due to the November holidays and the rush of the HIV/STD Conference, the November FUNdamentals call is cancelled. We will instead resume on an early December date that will be announced later this month.

## Clinical News Flash

### 4. Medications Added to THMP Formulary

- New information has been added to the Drug-Resistance Testing section regarding the use of HIV-1 proviral DNA genotypic resistance tests to identify drug resistance mutations, especially in the setting of low-level viremia or when plasma HIV RNA is below the limit of detection.
- Doravirine, a new non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, was recently approved by the FDA. The single-tablet regimen doravirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/lamivudine (DOR/TDF/3TC) and DOR plus TAF/FTC have been classified as Recommended Initial Regimens in Certain Clinical Situations.
- Read more here: [Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV](#)

## **5. New Care Guidelines for achieving viral suppression: HHS Adult and Adolescent Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines Updated, Issue 24**

- An updated version of the [Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV](#) (Released 10/25/2018)
- Some Topics include: What to choose for initial therapy, how to handle women of child-bearing age when considering the INSTI, dolutegravir, new single tablet combination therapy that is INSTI based, new NRTI, & guidance for managing virologic failure and drug-drug reactions. *To view or download the guidelines, go to the [Adult and Adolescent ARV Guidelines](#) section of AIDSinfo's website. The guideline tables and the boxed recommendations can also be downloaded as separate PDF files.*

## **6. Follow the Numbers to Vaccinate Clients for Pneumonia Prevention**

- As you vaccinate clients for flu don't forget about pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination; it is also a HRSA HAB measure. Remember it is a two-dose vaccine, so follow the numbers: PCV13 first followed at least 8 wks later by PPSV23. For more information & to download the CDC's guide to dosing & timing dosing go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/downloads/pneumo-vaccine-timing.pdf>