



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

- 1) HRSA Policy Clarification Notice
- 2) DSHS Updates
- 3) FUNdamentals Updates
- 4) Texas Board of Nurse Examiners Triage Guidelines
- 5) Ryan White Viral Suppression Achievements

Programmatic News Flash

1. Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA HAB) Policy Clarification Notices

- PCN #15-02, Clinical Quality Management, revises the number of performance measures a recipient must have for each funded service category based on the number of clients served in a category to reduce burden for recipients.
[PCN #15-02, Clinical Quality Management](#) (Updated)
- PCN #18-02 replaces PCN #07-04, *The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Transitional Social Support and Primary Care Services for Incarcerated Persons*. This PCN provides guidance on the use of program funds to provide core medical services and support services on a transitional basis to people living with HIV (PLWH) who are incarcerated in Federal and State prison systems. It also clarifies that recipients can use RWHAP funds for core medical services and support services on a short-term and/or transitional basis to PLWH who are incarcerated in certain correctional systems (e.g., local prisons or jails) or under community supervision (e.g., parole or home detention).
[PCN #18-02, The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Core Medical Services and Support Services for People Living with HIV Who Are Incarcerated and Justice Involved](#)

2. DSHS Updates

- DSHS is working on updating current HIV policy serving the incarcerated to be in place by February 2019 and to update QM requirements as needed. For more information, please contact Pamela Nims and Julie Saber, of the Care Services Group (pamela.nims@dshs.texas.gov, Julie.Saber@dshs.texas.gov)

3. FUNdamentals Updates

- Due to scheduling conflicts, our monthly care services informational series, "FUNdamentals", has been rescheduled for after the holiday season. Our first session of 2019 will be on January 15th! Calendar invites will be sent out shortly.

Clinical News Flash

4. Triage Guidelines

- The position of the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners is that only RN's have the skill set and the knowledge to safely assess a client's symptoms and help determine the cue in triage scenario. *The Board is aware that LVNs may practice in: physician's offices, or other similar settings. In **settings where a physician is present**, there may be a set of **standardized guidelines approved by the physician to establish treatment priorities within the office environment under the supervision of the physician**. Such practice settings may be appropriate for a qualified LVN.* https://www.bon.texas.gov/faq_nursing_practice.asp#t15

5. Ryan White Updated Viral Suppression Achievements

- A new report released today by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) shows that clients receiving Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program medical care were virally suppressed at a record level – 85.9 percent – in 2017. <https://targethiv.org/news/rwhap-viral-suppression-rate-2017-859-164-above-2010>