



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

- 1) August 2017 HRSA/HAB Clinical Care Conference in San Antonio
- 2) MAGI/Mock MAGI updates and FPL requirements
- 3) Texas HIV Medication Program - Pilot to cover HEP C medication
- 4) Ryan White funds to cover standalone dental insurance premiums
- 5) Standards of Care Update

## **Programmatic News Flash**

### **1. HRSA/HAB News**

- 17th Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clinical Care Conference: August 21-23, San Antonio (Technical Assistance) Save the date! The HRSA/HAB- funded AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) Program's 17th Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Clinical Care Conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas, August 21-23. This technical conference will provide state-of-the-art research, care, and treatment updates for experienced clinical decision makers (physicians, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants) who are responsible for the day-to-day medical care and treatment of people living with HIV and those integral to the provision of medical care in HRSA/HAB-funded RWHAP sites. Registration will open in early April. For more information <<https://careacttarget.org/calendar/2017-ryan-white-hiv-aids-program-clinical-care-conference>>.

### **2. MAGI/Mock MAGI updates**

- MAGI/Mock MAGI forms have been updated with current 2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) percentages and the forms are able to calculate the household income (used for RW Part B eligibility) as well as individual income (used for sliding fee charges based on HRSA requirements). Updated forms can be found at: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/magi.shtm>
- Note: All RW and State-funded service categories must have an income eligibility limit that is based on FPL and not to exceed 500% of FPL. For example: the Texas HIV Medication Program has an FPL limit of 200%. Areas of the state differ on setting FPL for different service categories. Some have the same FPL for most categories and others have lower FPL for categories that are minimally funded and to cover services for the neediest of clients.
- Planning councils set FPL limits for each service category in the Part A cities.
- Part B AA's set FPL limits for each service category with input from the community and by using data such as local utilization, needs assessment, and consumer socio-economic status.

## Clinical News Flash

### 3. HEP C Medication Pilot-

- The Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) recently started an HCV pilot for those persons currently on ADAP. This is specifically for Zepatier and Viekira Pak. The requirements are available online. <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/meds/default.shtm>
- THMP has many spots available and is excited to help more persons through the program. Inform your medical providers ASAP so they are aware and can consider applying for the program for those who are HEP C-positive that meet THMP program requirements.
- Note: All patients must be tested for evidence of current or prior HBV infection HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc before initiating HCV treatment. See <http://www.hcvguidelines.org/>

**See new March 13, 2017 guidance on drug interactions when treating persons with HIV (Tables 5 and 6):** [\*Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents.\*](#)

### 4. Ryan White to cover standalone dental insurance premiums – as of April 1, 2017

- The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) has updated Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) #16-02 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: *Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds* to include the use of RWHAP resources to support standalone dental insurance premiums and/or cost sharing assistance under the Health Insurance Premiums and Cost Sharing Assistance for Low-Income Individuals service category.

Please email your Care Services Consultant for any clarification needed on this update. Reference: Policy Clarification Notice #16-02 "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds" at <https://hab.hrsa.gov/program-grants-management/policy-notices-and-program-letters>

### 5. 2017 Standards of Care Revisions Update

We are more than one third through the Standards of Care revisions for 2017 and appreciate all of the valuable feedback we've received from AAs and providers! Remember, if you miss the workgroup/AA feedback deadline, you can still send comments during the 30-day public comment period. To see what standards are posted for public comment at any time, please visit <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/taxonomy/drafts/>.