

**An Important Message from  
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

**CMS Issues Guidance for the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health  
Emergency**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published its memorandum, [QSO-23-13-ALL \(PDF\)](#), providing guidance on the termination of the Social Security Act Section 1135 emergency waivers. Those waivers allowed certain requirements to be waived during the Public Health Emergency (PHE), including:

- Requirements that each home health and hospice aide receive 12 hours of in-service training in a 12-month period.
- The requirement that home health agencies perform Medicare-covered initial assessments and determine patients' homebound status in person.
- The requirement for home health agencies that a nurse conduct an onsite visit every two weeks
- The requirement that comprehensive assessments be done within specified timeframes for hospice patients.
- The requirement that hospice agencies provide certain non-core hospice services for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology.
- The requirement that home health and hospice providers perform annual full-scale emergency preparedness exercises.

These and other Social Security Act Section 1135 emergency waivers for health care providers will terminate with the end of the COVID-19 PHE on May 11, 2023.