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July 25, 2003

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To: Medicaid Hospice Providers

Subject: Long Term Care (LTC)
Medicaid Hospice Information Letter No. 03-01
Changes in the Texas Index for Level of Effort (TILE) Training

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has made changes to the TILE training. The Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) has attached the HHSC letter for your reference. Please ensure that all staff affected by this change are notified.

Please contact Teresa Habel, Director of Education and Staff Development, HHSC at (512) 482-3276, if you have questions about this letter. Please contact Maxcine Tomlinson, Medicaid Hospice Program Specialist, at (512) 438-3169 if you have Medicaid Hospice questions.

An electronic version of this letter, can be accessed at
<http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/programs/communitycare/>

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Becky Beechinor
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Long Term Care Services

BB:ck

Attachment



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

ALBERT HAWKINS
COMMISSIONER

April 29, 2003

Larry A. Farrow
Executive Director
Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization
P. O. Box 15465
Austin, Texas 78761-5465

Re: Changes in T.I.L.E. Training

Dear Mr. Farrow,

The Texas Index of Level of Effort (T.I.L.E.) was originated as a process to pay nursing facilities for the care they give their Medicaid residents. It is used to determine the level of service provided to a resident through the completion of the 3652A Client Assessment, Review, and Evaluation (CARE) form. Form 3652A is also used to determine medical necessity for nursing home care under Medicaid.

For the past three years, HHSC has provided without cost to the providers, the training course that enables nursing facility staff, Community Based Alternatives (CBA) staff, and other state agency programs that utilize the 352A CARE form to correctly complete the form by:

- Teaching how to appropriately assess and document a recipient's condition and the level of staff intervention and
- Providing instructions that explains how to correctly code the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).

HHSC has made every effort to make this training available and economically efficient for the providers and for the state. In 2000, HHSC contracted with Southwest Texas State University to provide the T.I.L.E. training on-line and by correspondence; thereby, initiating savings in deliver costs and in travel expenses for the state and for the providers that are required to complete the T.I.L.E. training.

Due to current state budgetary deficits, it is no longer financially feasible for HHSC to continue to provide this training free of charge. Beginning September 1, 2003,

providers will be required to pay \$30.00 each time they register to take the on-line T.I.L.E. training course. The correspondence course will continue to be available for a \$30.00 fee plus an additional \$10.00 handling fee.

Please inform your staff, members of your Association, and other interested parties of this upcoming change. Additional information will soon be available on the HHSC, SWT, and Texas Department of Human Services Long Term Care web sites.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (512) 482-3276.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Teresa B. Habel
Director of Education and Staff Development
HHSC/OIE

Cc: Bettye Mitchell
Marc Gold
Maxcine Tomlinson
Dr. Charles Bell