

TO: TennCare Managed Care Organizations
FROM: Stephen Smith, Director
DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBJECT: Timeline for the Expiration of the Remaining COVID-19 Hospital Administrative Flexibilities

After close monitoring of Tennessee's COVID-19 positivity rates, hospitalizations, and diagnosis of new cases, and following discussion with the Tennessee Hospital Association, TennCare will allow the remaining hospital administrative flexibilities to expire according to the timelines below. Each MCO should immediately notify their contracted providers of the expiration dates for the remaining COVID-19 hospital administrative flexibilities listed below.

The following administrative flexibilities will expire on March 31, 2022:

Post-Acute Care Services – Utilization Management

TennCare MCOs should not require authorization reviews before patients can be moved from the acute care setting to the appropriate post-acute care setting. TennCare MCOs will also support rapid placement and discharge of currently hospitalized patients who can be safely discharged to another setting.

Suspension of PCP Assignment

The MCOs will continue the suspension of the practice of denying PCP service claims submitted by providers who are not the assigned PCP of the members they are serving until further notice. Any claims that were denied since July 31, 2021 as a result of the PCP assignment requirements, should be reprocessed and retroactively approved back to July 31, 2021. As has been the practice throughout this year, members will continue to be assigned PCPs according to the normal process.

In addition, the **Pre-Admission Screening and Annual Resident Review (PASRR) Waiver Authority** will expire on the same date as the expiration of the federal public health emergency. The most current CMS guidance regarding the PASRR may be found at:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho20004.pdf>