



# HHS Reverts to APR-DRG Grouper 36 for Fee-for-Service Inpatient Reimbursements

## What's happening:

Effective for dates of discharge on or after September 1, 2020, Texas Medicaid and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services programs will revert to Grouper version 36 of the All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups (APR-DRG) to process inpatient claims. This change affects Medicaid (STAR, STAR Kids and CHIP) providers.

## What it means:

Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) discovered lower reimbursements to hospital providers because of changes made in the grouping logic of Grouper version 37 and 37.1, which were not recognized at the time of implantation. Inpatient claims with discharge dates on or after September 1, 2020, which were originally processed under APR-DRG Grouper version 37.1, will be reprocessed using Grouper version 36 logic and relative weights.

## Will claims be reprocessed?

Yes, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is also reviewing claims with discharge dates between October 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020, which were processed under APR-DRG Grouper version 37 and 37.1. The impacted claims will be identified and reprocessed upon completion of the review.

## Additional Information

For hospitals that license 3M's Texas-specific reimbursement calculation software, 3M released a software update on November 19, 2020, which reflects the above decision. Use of this software is a hospital decision and is not required by HHS.

## Special Note

Currently, HHS is reviewing processes to analyse the fiscal impact of annual APR-DRG version logic changes. Relative weights will be re-calibrated, if necessary, before each version implementation. HHS and Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) will publish updated information as it become available.

## Resources

To further address questions from the provider community regarding the Grouper change, HHS published HHSC Reverts to Grouper 36 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Our providers may access the FAQ document and other information for APR-DRG by visiting the [HHS Hospitals & Clinic Services webpage](#).


HHSC Reverts to Grouper 36 FAQ posted on TMHP website: <http://registration.hhsc.state.tx.us/downloads/revert-grouper36-faq.pdf>.

## Questions

Contact our BCBSTX Medicaid Provider Service Center at 1-877-560-8055 or contact your BCBSTX Medicaid Provider Network Representative at 1-855-212-1615.



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