

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

**STAR+PLUS, MMP: Transitioning the Dual Demonstration to an
Enhanced Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan Model**

Background:

In 2015, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services implemented Dual Eligible Integrated Care Demonstration Project (Dual Demonstration) under which Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) are responsible for providing the full array of Medicare and Medicaid services for dually eligible members who reside in six Dual Demonstration counties: Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, and Tarrant. The Dual Demonstration operates under a three-way contract between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHSC, and MMPs.

Key Details:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Contract Year 2023 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule (Final Rule), published on May 9, 2022, requires states to phase-out their dual demonstration projects beginning on December 31, 2023. However, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is allowing states that convert their MMPs to integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) to extend their dual demonstrations through December 31, 2025.

D-SNPs are Medicare Advantage plans that enroll partial (Medicare beneficiaries who receive assistance from Medicaid to cover their Medicare premiums and cost-sharing) and full (Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for full Medicaid benefits) dually eligible members and are federally required to contract with a state Medicaid agency, pursuant to 42 CFR 422.107(b). Integrated D-SNPs have program features to support the coordination of a member's Medicare and Medicaid services.

In March 2023, HHSC decided to extend the Dual Demonstration through at least December 31, 2024. Now, in accordance with the Final Rule and with input from MMPs and other stakeholders, HHSC has decided to end the Dual Demonstration by December 31, 2025, and transition MMPs to integrated D-SNPs by January 1, 2026.

HHSC plans to transition MMPs to a statewide enhanced D-SNP model, which will further advance Medicare-Medicaid integration, align with federal rules, streamline services, with intent to improve member and provider satisfaction. HHSC will remain committed during the transition process to keep MMPs and other stakeholders informed about transition plans as they are developed.

Contact:

Chat with a live advocate 7 a.m.–7 p.m. CT from the UnitedHealthcare Provider Portal Contact Us page. You can also call your provider advocate or UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas Customer Service at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.