November 3, 2026

EXTENDED AGE ELIGIBILITY FOR PEER SPECIALIST SERVICES AND UPDATED TELEHEALTH PEER SPECIALIST SERVICES BENEFIT INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Effective for dates of service on or after December 1, 2026, Texas Medicaid benefits for peer specialist services will be updated to extend the age of eligibility for these services from 21 years of age and over to include 14 years of age and over. Benefit language for peer specialist services will also be updated to clarify coverage for telehealth delivery.

KEY DETAILS

Certified Peer Specialists use their lived experience of recovery from a mental health or substance use condition to provide non-clinical and strength-based support to others who are experiencing similar challenges. Peer specialists support the person in:

- Achieving goals and objectives of the person-centered recovery plan
- Developing skills
- Problem solving
- Developing coping mechanisms

Extended Age Eligibility for Peer Specialist Services

Texas Medicaid will update the age eligibility for peer specialist services (procedure code H0038) from clients who are 21 years of age or older to clients who are 14 years of age or older.

Refer to Section 6, “Peer Specialist Services,” of the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM), Behavioral Health and Case Management Services Handbook for more information about peer specialist services.

Updated Telehealth Peer Specialist Services Benefit Information in the TMPPM

Peer specialist services may be delivered as a telehealth service. Providers must submit claims for telehealth peer specialist services as follows:

- Procedure code H0038 must be submitted with modifier 95 for services that are provided by synchronous audiovisual technology.
- Procedure code H0038 must be submitted with modifier FQ for services that are provided by synchronous telephone (audio-only) technology.

On December 1, 2026, the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) will update section 6.4.1, "Reimbursement," of the *TMPPM*, *Behavioral Health and Case Management Services Handbook* to remove the following bulleted statement:

- "Must be delivered in person and not through advanced telecommunications technology"

Refer to Section 6.1.1, "Telehealth Service," of the *TMPPM*, *Behavioral Health and Case Management Services Handbook* for more information about telehealth peer specialist services.

RESOURCES

TMPPM, Behavioral Health and Case Management Services Handbook Chapter 6

Benefit Updates for Texas Medicaid Peer Specialist Services Effective December 1, 2026