

OUTPATIENT / AMBULATORY HEALTH SERVICES STANDARDS OF CARE

HRSA DEFINITION

Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services (OAHS) is the provision of professional diagnostic and therapeutic services provided directly to a client by a licensed healthcare professional in an outpatient medical setting. Outpatient medical settings include clinics, medical offices, and mobile vans where clients do not stay overnight. Emergency room and urgent care services are not considered outpatient settings.

Allowable services include medical history taking; diagnostic testing, including laboratory testing; behavioral risk assessment, subsequent counseling, and referral; preventive care and screening; treatment adherence; referral to and provision of specialty care related to HIV diagnosis; physical examination; prescription and management of medication therapy; treatment and management of physical and behavioral health conditions; pediatric developmental assessment; and education and counseling on health and prevention issues.

GOAL

To provide primary HIV medical care, professional diagnostic, and therapeutic services.

STANDARD OF CARE

Hiring Standards

- All program staff should meet Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Standards of Care requirements for staff qualifications.
- The agency's facility(ies) shall be appropriately licensed as required by the State of Texas for the provision of medical care services.
- Medical care services, as a minimum standard, should follow the guidelines of a recognized national organization with expertise in the field of HIV medical care and must be consistent with the current Public Health Service (PHS) treatment guidelines for adults, adolescents, pediatrics, perinatal exposure, health care worker exposure, opportunistic infections and tuberculosis.

Training Standards

- All program staff should abide by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Standards of Care requirements for training.

Job Performance Standards

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- All program staff should abide by the DSHS Standards of Care requirements for job performance.

Reporting

- All program staff should abide by the Texas Department of State Health Services Standards of Care requirements for reporting.