
Service Area

Federal Regulations:	Effective Date: March 29, 2019
State Regulations: TX 97.220	Revision Date(s): February 27, 2023

PURPOSE: To define the area in which Hospice provides services.

POLICY: Hospice provides services only in the defined service area. Federal and state regulatory agencies are notified when the service delivery area changes as applicable.

PROCEDURE:

- 1) The service delivery area is noted in the license application/ renewal and other written communication to regulatory agencies as required.
- 2) Appropriate regulatory agencies are notified in writing when the service delivery area changes.
- 3) Service area is posted or otherwise communicated to employees.
- 4) Employees are aware of Hospice service area.

Texas Only

- 1) The hospice must submit written notice to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to expand its service area at least 30 days before the expansion unless HHSC grants the agency an exemption from the 30-day time frame.
- 2) The hospice is exempt from the requirement to submit written notice to HHSC no later than 30 days before expanding its service area if HHSC determines an emergency situation exists that would affect patient health and safety.
 - a. Hospice notifies HHSC immediately of a possible emergency situation that would affect patient health and safety.
 - b. If HHSC grants an exemption, Hospice must submit written notice to HHSC, as described in #2 above, no later than 30 days after the date HHSC grants the exemption.
 - c. If HHSC denies an exemption, the hospice may not expand its service area until at least 30 days after the agency submits the written notice to HHSC.
- 3) Hospice may reduce its service area at any time during the licensure period. It must submit written notice to HHSC informing HHSC that the hospice has reduced its service area no later than 10 days after the reduction.