



## RGV Kidz Place

A Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center  
in Edinburg, Texas

### Results in Brief

#### Why OIG Conducted This Audit

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Audit) conducted an audit of RGV Kidz Place in response to a Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Regulatory Services request to review prescribed pediatric extended care centers (PPECCs), a Texas Medicaid provider type established on November 1, 2016.

RGV Kidz Place is one of 10 licensed PPECCs in Texas as of January 31, 2024. During the audit scope, which covered the period from September 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, RGV Kidz Place served 37 patients; employed 29 individuals, including nurses, nursing assistants, and administrative staff; and received \$1.15 million in Texas Medicaid reimbursements for 1,259 managed care claims.

#### Summary of Review

The audit objective was to determine whether RGV Kidz Place provided services in accordance with selected rules, statutes, and requirements.

The audit scope covered Texas Medicaid services provided during the period from September 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, including related personnel and medical records. A scheduled site visit to assess facility conditions and related life and safety documentation was conducted in November 2023.

#### Conclusion

RGV Kidz Place in Edinburg, Texas, is a prescribed pediatric extended care center (PPECC). RGV Kidz Place developed patient plans of care that included several required elements; completed staff member licensing checks; trained certified nursing assistants; and verified all staff members with driving duties had a valid driver's license.

However, RGV Kidz Place did not consistently comply with some requirements for staffing ratios; therapy services coordination; employment checks; covering electrical outlets; fire safety testing and inspections; and patient transportation services. Additionally, RGV Kidz Place submitted claims in error for 13 separate PPECC services. As a result, RGV Kidz Place was overpaid and should repay \$617.25 to the state of Texas.

#### Key Results

RGV Kidz Place did not meet minimum staffing ratio requirements for 24 of 28 service dates tested. On each of these 24 service dates, RGV Kidz Place had one to two fewer staff members on duty than staffing ratios required. RGV Kidz Place also did not (a) coordinate with therapy providers to help 18 patients receive therapy services at the PPECC during the audit scope nor (b) include required elements when documenting therapy services patients were to receive in the PPECC setting.

RGV Kidz Place did not always perform required employment checks of the (a) Employee Misconduct Registry, (b) Nurse Aide Registry, (c) federal exclusions database, and (d) Texas Exclusions Database. RGV Kidz Place did not perform required criminal history checks for staff members at rehire. Additionally, RGV Kidz Place submitted claims in error for 13 separate PPECC services, totaling \$617.25.

During the scheduled site visit in November 2023, OIG Audit observed RGV Kidz Place did not (a) cover 10 electrical outlets; (b) schedule fire alarm testing semiannually; and (c) obtain a local fire marshal's inspection. For patient transportation services, RGV Kidz Place did not document the names of staff members who performed morning patient transportation services on any of the 28 service dates tested. On 7 of the 28 service dates, RGV Kidz Place also did not maintain records for the afternoon patient transportation services nor protect these records from destruction.

## Background

PPECCs provide a nonresidential, facility-based care alternative to private duty nursing services for children and adolescents with complex medical conditions who are enrolled in Texas Medicaid. Specifically, PPECC services may be available for Texas Medicaid patients who:

- Are 20 years of age and younger, eligible for the Texas Health Steps Comprehensive Care Program, and medically or technologically dependent.
- Have an acute or chronic condition requiring ongoing skilled nursing.
- Meet the medical necessity criteria for admission to a PPECC.
- Consent to receive PPECC services or have the consent of the patient's responsible adult.

PPECC services may be provided up to 12 hours per day and may include skilled nursing, personal care services while attending the PPECC, functional developmental services, psychosocial services, nutritional counseling, training for the patient's responsible adult, therapy coordination, and transportation to and from the PPECC.

## Management Response

RGV Kidz Place agreed with the audit recommendations and indicated corrective actions would be implemented by March 30, 2024.

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On one patient transportation service trip, RGV Kidz Place provided one fewer direct care staff member than was required. Additionally, on 19 patient transportation service trips, RGV Kidz Place did not document the reasons patients were aboard transportation for longer than one hour.

## Recommendations

RGV Kidz Place should:

- Update its staffing and scheduling procedures to meet staffing ratio requirements for PPECC facilities.
- Improve its coordination with therapy providers to verify each patient receives the therapy services to be provided in the PPECC setting as prescribed on the patient's plan of care.
- For services to be provided in a PPECC setting, implement procedures to update (a) current plans of care for each patient to reflect type, amount, duration, and frequency of occupational, physical, and speech therapy services and (b) changes to patient needs for therapy services.
- Perform, document, and maintain (a) checks of both the Employee Misconduct Registry and the Nurse Aide Registry before hire and annually for all staff members, (b) federal and state Medicaid exclusions checks monthly for all staff members, and (c) all required checks for rehired staff members.
- Implement (a) a secondary review process to verify it provided services before claims are submitted and (b) procedures to maintain service documentation. If the associated documentation does not support services were provided, RGV Kidz Place should make corrections prior to submitting the claim.
- Consistently replace childproof covers on all electrical outlets when not in use.
- Schedule fire alarm system testing semiannually.
- Obtain a local fire marshal's office inspection annually.
- Maintain complete transportation records for patient transportation service trips.
- Implement procedures to protect transportation records from destruction.
- Update its staffing and scheduling procedures to meet staffing ratio requirements for patient transportation services.
- Document the reasons for the extended time in transport for each patient aboard a transportation vehicle for longer than one hour.

Additionally, RGV Kidz Place was overpaid and should repay \$617.25 to the state of Texas.