TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

September 21, 2011

Ms. Dianna Spieker
Treasurer & IHC Director
Tom Green County
19 N Irving Street
San Angelo, TX 76903-5887

Dear Ms. Spieker:

The Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID) is a public health facility for the treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) that is operated by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). TCID provides high quality medical care for patients with tuberculosis and other related infectious, contagious diseases. Medical, diagnostic, therapeutic and educational services are provided to patients from across the state, except for pediatrics.

During the fiscal year 2010, 84 patients were served in TCID's inpatient facility. These patients are referred from urban and rural counties across the state for the treatment of TB, particularly complex cases including multidrug resistant TB and extensively drug resistant TB.

The Texas Legislature passed legislation that became effective on September 1, 2011 directing the DSHS to pursue reimbursement, in cases where funding is available, from county governments for tuberculosis services provided to new county indigent patients served at TCID (DSHS Rider 80, General Appropriations Act, 82nd Texas Legislature, Regular Session).

Pursuant to this requirement, DSHS will initiate billing for services on September 1, 2011. Because counties vary in their methods to fund indigent individuals' medical needs, we will begin by addressing these issues to the administrators currently identified for these individuals by the county. If these issues should be directed to a different division of the county, please notify our reimbursement department.

If you have any questions, please contact the TCID Reimbursement Department at (210) 531-7809.

Thank you for your assistance, and we look forward to working with you in addressing the medical needs of TB patients in this state.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Maples, Assistant Commissioner
Mental Health and Substance Abuse