

the **checkup**



by
Texas
Children's
Health Plan
Medical
Directors

APRIL 2017

A monthly publication of **Texas Children's Health Plan**

Notify Texas Children's Health Plan if you change or update your software

Please be sure to notify Texas Children's Health Plan in writing prior to any system software change or update. Providers need to do this to allow Texas Children's Health Plan to waive any filing deadline issues that are related to the installation of the new software/system during the system transition period requested by the provider. Texas Children's Health Plan staff are also available to assist in the testing of new claims software to ensure the correct transfer of information. If you are interested in using this service, please contact Texas Children's Health Plan Provider Relations at **1-800-731-8527**.



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Office Manager's

OB/GYN's

PCP's

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Screening for maternal depression – essential to child wellbeing



Effective January 1, 2017, Texas Children’s Health Plan will reimburse providers for maternal depression screening conducted at a well-child visit. Postpartum depression screening utilizing the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale may be reimbursed up to 2 times per member ages 0-6 months, using CPT code 96161. Code 96161 is used to report the use of a standardized instrument to screen for health risks in the caregiver for the benefit of the patient. The reimbursement for this code will be based on the reimbursement for code 99420 in the current Medicaid fee schedule until the Medicaid fee schedule is updated to reflect code 96161.

Providers may access the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale online at no cost:

English: https://www2.aap.org/sections/scan/practicingsafety/Toolkit_Resources/Module2/EPDS.pdf

Spanish: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mcah/Documents/MO-CHVP-EPDS-Spanish.pdf>

Visit TheCheckup.org for complete article.

AAP and ACOG advocate for prevention and treatment for drug-addicted pregnant women

With opioid use increasing across the country, we are also seeing increases in opioid-related complications including neonatal abstinence. The American Academy of Pediatrics with support from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, issued a policy statement in the March issue of Pediatrics, advising that a “counseling-based approach, rather than a punitive approach is the best course of action.” Strategies to prevent and treat opioid-related complications include:

- Improved access to care including birth control, prenatal care and substance abuse treatment.
- Routine alcohol and drug screening for all women of childbearing age.
- Providing information and obtaining informed consent for drug testing and reporting.
- Better access to opioid-replacement therapy.
- Drug and alcohol treatment programs designed for pregnant women.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2017/02/16/peds.2016-4070>

<http://www.marchofdimes.org/pregnancy/prescription-opioids-during-pregnancy.aspx>

Improved outcomes through screening

Implementing a screening process for developmental milestones, maternal depression and social determinants of health provides primary care providers with the opportunity to improve the health of their patients and their families. Early identification and linkage to services increases the impact of these services, whether it is through increasing the likelihood of developmental improvement; preventing emotional delays that can develop as a result of maternal depression; or reducing exposure to adversity in childhood that can disrupt healthy brain development. The AAP is

introducing a Screening Technical Assistance (TA) Center to help support providers. The Screening TA Center offers a website, <http://bit.ly/2mVsDOP> which has extensive resources, as well as free, individualized assistance to those seeking to initiate or improve the early childhood screening process in their practice. Experts are available to provide advice on screening tools, payment, electronic medical record documentation, conversation tactics, workflow ideas, and how to make the case for screening within a larger health system.



Need help navigating pharmacy prior authorizations?

Pharmacy Prior Authorizations (PAs) can be a difficult administrative burden for providers and staff, however, they help ensure patients are receiving the most evidence-based, cost-effective medications. **The Vendor Drug Program (VDP)** is the state resource for the Texas Medicaid formulary and Preferred Drug List (PDL). VDP has provided a very helpful guide to managing pharmacy benefits for your patients.

You can access this resource here:
<http://casestudies.txhealthsteps.com/stepsQuickCourses/prescribers/>

Visit TheCheckup.org for complete article.

THSteps for RNs

RNs without clinical nurse specialist (CNS), nurse practitioner (NP), or certified nurse midwife (CNM) certification may provide medical checkups only under direct physician supervision, meaning the physician must either be on site during the checkup or immediately available to offer assistance and direction to the RN during the checkup.

Prior to performing THSteps checkups, the RN must complete required training modules developed by THSteps. Required training modules can be found on the THSteps website at <http://tinyurl.com/lha75jx>. The RN or the RN's employer must maintain documentation of course completion in the employee's record.

When a physician delegates a complete THSteps medical checkup to an RN, the physician must establish the RN's competency to perform the service prior to the delegation, as required by the physician's scope of practice. The delegating physician provider remains responsible for any service provided to the client.

For more information, providers may refer to the current Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Children's Services Handbook, subsection 5.2.1.1, "Requirements for Registered Nurses Who Provide Medical Checkups."



Provider portal access and use

Each provider office is assigned an office manager for the purpose of managing the Texas Children’s Health Plan Provider portal. The office manager role is to ensure new staff who need access are assigned the correct security role, as well as to remove any employee who no longer needs access. As a reminder, the responsibility for protecting the HIPAA information within the Texas Children’s Health Plan Provider portal is solely held by each office.

Office managers who need assistance with adding or removing users may contact Texas Children’s Health Plan Provider Relations at 800-731-8527.

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is published monthly by Texas Children’s Health Plan.

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PO Box 301011
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04/2017



For further reading

Verifying eligibility monthly

As a reminder, members who have STAR and STAR Kids may change their managed care plans monthly. Providers should routinely verify eligibility with Texas Children’s Health Plan for membership by visiting our Texas Children’s Health Plan Provider portal at www.tchp.us/providers. The Provider portal has the most current information specific to Texas Children’s Health Plan. If you have questions regarding the Provider portal, please contact Texas Children’s Health Plan Provider Relations at 1-800-731-8527.

You can go to our website and log-in to **Provider TouCHPoint** to learn more on topics like:

- Quality program goals, processes, and outcomes
- Referrals to case management
- Pharmaceutical management procedures
- Disease Management Programs
- Formulary
- How practitioners can access authorization criteria
- Availability of staff to discuss authorization process
- Supporting an exception process
- Availability of TDD/TTY services
- Member rights and responsibilities
- Availability of language assistance for members
- Generic substitution, therapeutic interchange, and step therapy protocol
- Prohibiting financial incentives for utilization management decision makers
- Clinical practice guidelines and preventive health guidelines

