

Provider Update

Reminder: Texas Health Steps requirements

Summary of update: Texas Health Steps (THSteps) components require detailed documentation within the member's medical record, per federal and state mandate.

✦ **What this means to you:** Provide detailed documentation for THSteps components within the member's medical record.

As a reminder, THSteps Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) components require detailed documentation within the patient's medical record. The Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (Children's Services Handbook Section 5.3.11) outlines the mandated components. Key information on the components is below.

- **Comprehensive health and developmental history, including physical and mental health development:** Developmental surveillance and screening, and behavioral, social and emotional screening, are vital. The THSteps Tuberculosis Questionnaire is required annually (beginning at 12 months of age) and a skin test is required if screening indicates possible exposure.
- **Comprehensive unclothed physical examination:** A complete exam includes the recording of measurements and percentiles to document growth and development. Hearing and vision screenings are also a required component of the exam.
- **Immunizations appropriate for age and health history:** Immunization status must be screened at each medical checkup and necessary vaccines must be administered at the time of the checkup (according to the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), unless medically contraindicated or because of parental reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs.
- **Laboratory tests appropriate to age and risk, including lead toxicity at specific, federally mandated ages:** Required age-based laboratory screenings include newborn screening, as well as anemia and lead screening at 12 and 24 months.
- **Health education, including anticipatory guidance:** Anticipatory guidance is a federally mandated component of the medical checkup. Health education and counseling is required in order to assist parents, caregivers and clients understand what to expect in terms of growth and development. Health education and counseling includes healthy lifestyle practices, as well as prevention of lead poisoning, accidents and disease.

**Amerigroup members in the Medicaid Rural Service Area are served by Amerigroup Insurance Company; all other Amerigroup members in Texas are served by Amerigroup Texas, Inc.*

- **Dental referral:** Providers should refer members to a dental home beginning at 6 months of age, or earlier if needed. Subsequent referrals must be made until the parent or caregiver confirms a dental home has been established. The parent or caregiver may self-refer for dental care at any age.

Referrals for abnormal findings (for example, vision or hearing) must include detailed documentation as to why the referral is necessary or to support why a referral was unnecessary.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received this fax in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.