

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Overview

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) is the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment program for children under the age of 21 on Medicaid. Services in this program include comprehensive, age-appropriate assessments, dental, hearing & vision screenings, immunizations and lab tests as indicated in the periodicity schedule which is published in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM).

What is the timeframe for a THSteps appointment?

- Members should have a THSteps exam within the first 90 calendar days of plan membership to establish a medical home.
- Additional THSteps exams should be completed in accordance with the periodicity schedule based on member's date of birth

What is my responsibility as a Provider?

- Your responsibility as the child's provider is to educate the child's parent or guardian of the health benefits of preventive care.
- Schedule complete exams in a timely manner according to the periodicity schedule
- Perform complete exam and document all components of THSteps exam
- Cooperate with compliance monitoring of medical records documentation

What if the patient's parent or guardian refuses to set a THSteps appointment?

- Providers must document a parent's refusal for a child's THSteps appointment. Further guidelines are in development from the State and will be communicated upon completion.
- The documentation will be included in the compliance monitoring of patient's medical record.

What is a THSteps Medical Check-up?

The visit is a comprehensive medical check-up and MUST include all age-appropriate:

- Comprehensive health and development history, including developmental and nutritional assessment.
- Comprehensive unclothed physical including graphic recording of head circumference.
- Appropriate immunizations as indicated in the recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule – United States
- Laboratory tests as indicated on the periodicity schedule (including lead blood level assessment appropriate for age and risk factors, anemia, and newborn screening)
- Health education (including anticipatory guidance)
- Vision and hearing screening.
- Direct referral to dental checkups beginning at 12 months of age.

Who can provide THSteps Services?

To enroll in the THSteps program, providers must be enrolled in the Texas Medicaid Program, in addition to one of the following:

- Currently licensed in Texas as an MD or DO.
- Health care provider or facility capable of performing the required medical check procedures under a physician's direction.
- Family and pediatric nurse practitioners enrolled independently.
- Certified nurse-midwives (CNM) enrolled as providers for newborns younger than 2 months and adolescent females
- Women's health care nurse practitioners – enrolled as providers for adolescent females
- Physician Assistants (PAs) enrolled independently
- Adult nurse practitioners (ANP) – enrolled as providers for adolescents

Providers should review the TMPPM or contact TMHP for more information.

Billing for THSteps Medical Check-ups

- Providers can bill a complete THSteps medical check-up for reimbursement through Parkland HEALTHfirst. Incomplete medical check-ups are not reimbursable under the Medicaid managed care program.
- All components of the THSteps medical check-up are included in the reimbursement for the visit.
- A provider who bills for THSteps services is acknowledging the completion of a comprehensive medical check-up in accordance with THSteps policy.

Do my patients have to go to HEALTHfirst THSteps provider for their THSteps Medical check-ups?

Parkland Community Health Plan (PCHP) would like for your patients who are members of Parkland HEALTHfirst to see providers within the HEALTHfirst network; however, in order to decrease barriers to care, Members may see any THSteps provider for services.

How do my patients know when a THSteps Medical or Dental check-up is due?

- Your patient's Medicaid ID form (form 3087) will indicate when the child is due for a medical or dental check-up. If nothing appears next to their child's name, it means it is not time for a check-up.
- Immunizations are generally due at the same time as THSteps check-ups. Parents should also be issued a Shot record by their THSteps provider or shot provider that should indicate when the next shots are due.

What if my patient needs a ride to a THSteps appointment?

Parents of your patients should contact the Medical Transportation Program (MTP) if they need a ride to any THSteps appointment. MTP can be contacted at 1-877-633-8747.

Texas Health Steps – Migrant Farm Workers

The mandates for medical care for migrant farm workers include:

- Plan will coordinate with State and other entities to identify migrant farm workers;
- Identified members will be contacted to determine whether "accelerated services" are necessary

We are posting a complete THSteps overview on our website at www.parklandhmo.com. If you have further questions, please contact our PCHP Provider Relations team at 1-888-672-2277.