

Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Overview

Texas Health Steps – Information for Providers	
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should have a THSteps exam within the first 90 calendar days of Parkland Community Health Plan (PCHP) 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<p>The visit is a comprehensive medical check-up and MUST include all age-appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<p>To enroll in the THSteps program, providers must be enrolled in the Texas Medicaid Program, in addition to one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physicians (MD and DO) currently licensed in the state where the service is provided. • Health care providers or facilities (public or private) capable of performing the required medical checkup procedures under a physician's direction.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and pediatric nurse practitioners enrolled independently. • Some certified nurse-midwives (CNM). • Some women’s health care nurse practitioners. • Some adult nurse practitioners (ANP). • Some Physician Assistants (PA). • For further information, consult the TMPPM manual. <p>Providers interested in performing THSteps services need to contact the THSteps program at 1-512-458-7745 or the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) at 1-800-757-5691.</p>
Billing for THSteps Medical Check-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers can bill a complete THSteps medical check-up for reimbursement through PCHP. 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. • A complete check-up is an assessment provided in accordance with mandated procedures and the narrative standards outlined for each procedure. • Codes used to bill for THSteps Medical Check-ups included – 99381, 99382, 99383, 99384 and 99385 (new patient, age appropriate codes); or 99391, 99392, 99393, 99394, and 99395 (established patient, age appropriate codes) • Please file your claims for THSteps visits as soon as possible after the date of service to ensure accurate reporting. Your claim is needed to verify that a THSteps exam has been completed.
Conditions Identified During a THSteps Medical Check-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the THSteps provider determines additional treatment is necessary for a condition found during the check-up; treatment can be provided, but must be billed on a separate claim. • An established patient office visit (99211 – 99214) may be submitted on the same day as the check-up with the appropriate established patient CPT code for the diagnosis and treatment of the identified problem. • Often minor illnesses or conditions (e.g. follow-up of a mild upper respiratory infection) during the THSteps medical check-up do not warrant additional billing.
Referrals for conditions identified during a THSteps Medical Check-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When performing the check-up, if a THSteps provider determines that a referral for diagnosis and treatment is necessary for a condition identified during the check-up, the referral should be made to an Parkland HealthFirst network provider who is qualified to perform the necessary diagnostic or treatment services.
OB’s as PCP’s – reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the OB is a PCP and a THSteps provider, the OB can complete the THSteps medical check up. Alternatively, the OB can arrange for the patient to receive a check up from an enrolled THSteps provider within the 90 days.

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Fee Increase for Professionals

- Frew rate increases are for physicians and certain other professionals. For the purposes of the rate increase:
- Physicians include medical doctors - provider type (PT 20), doctors of osteopathy – (PT 19), THSteps medical providers (PT 66), physician assistants (PT 10), and advanced practice nurses such as clinical nurse specialists (PT 10), nurse practitioners (PT 10), certified nurse midwives (PT 33), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (PT 04).
 - Certain other non-physician professionals include psychologists (PT 31), licensed professional counselors (PT 16), licensed marriage and family therapists (PT 16), licensed clinical social workers (PT 40), CCP social workers (PT 18), CCP group (PT 14) CCP clinic (PT 15), audiologists (PT 37), optometrists (PT 28), opticians (PT 29), certified respiratory care providers (PT 06), chiropractors (PT 30), podiatrists (PT 30), prosthetists (PT 38), and orthotists (PT 39).

The fee increases are for professionals and not facilities; therefore health departments, school-based clinics, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics are not included.

While home health agencies are not included in the specific Frew rate increases, the budget includes \$39 million general revenue for the biennium to increase home health agency fees for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services delivered to clients under age 21, to the fees implemented for physicians and independently enrolled therapists effective January 1, 2006.

Will the rate increases affect the current High Volume Pass-Thru calculation?

The current High Volume Pass-Thru calculation (2.5%) will be eliminated

Texas Health Steps – Information for Members

Do my patients have to go to a Parkland HealthFirst THSteps provider for their THSteps Medical check-ups?	Parkland Community Health Plans would like for your patients who are members of Parkland HealthFirst to see providers within the PCHP 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

What are the mandates for medical care for migrant farm workers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCHP will coordinate with State and other entities to identify migrant farm workers;• Identified members will be contacted to determine whether “accelerated services” are necessary
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