

# CONNECTIONS



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### Texas Health Steps Branch

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## Newborn Screening

*Newborn screening panels to expand*

Since 1998 significant expansion of newborn screening programs has occurred and can be attributed to technology, instrumentation, and clinical advances over the past several years that have lead to newborn screening using tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS). MS/MS is a technique that allows the screening of multiple disorders in the same blood spot collected on the standard newborn screening card. States in our region are just now starting to expand their programs.

For a detailed discussion of the major categories of disorders detectable by MS/MS and the expansion of the DSHS Newborn Screening Program, visit their web site. There you will find an article entitled, "[Newborn Screening in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.](#)" The article appears in the *Genetic Drift*, a journal published by the Mountain States Regional Genetics Collaborative Center entitled.

## Upcoming Events

### Regional Monthly Conference Call

The next regional monthly conference call is scheduled for November 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. CST. Please submit agenda items to [Marty Darnell](#), Program Specialist, THSteps Central Office, by the 5:00 p.m., October 25, 2006. For detailed information about enrolling for this class, visit the [TNA web site](#).

### Region 2/3 THSteps Program Update Seminar for Providers

Seminar to be held October 27, 2006, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to be held at the Tarrant County Public Health Department, 1101 S Main, Fort Worth, Texas. Lunch will be provided by

Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. For questions or to register, contact [Karen Riley](#), THSteps Team Lead, at (817) 264-4918.

### Region 9/10 Medicaid Provider Responsibilities Workshop

Workshop to be held in conjunction with the HHSC Medicaid Fraud Unit on the following dates:

November 10, 2006 – El Paso  
December 1, 2006 – San Angelo  
December 8, 2006 – Odessa

For questions or to register for the Region 9/10 THSteps experts forums, contact [Donna Pena](#), THSteps Team Lead, at (915) 834-7733.

## Buying Medicaid Benefits

*Workers with disabilities now can buy Medicaid benefits*

[In Touch](#), an online newsletter published by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), details information regarding the newest way to participate in Medicaid. The Medicaid Buy-In Program, authorized by the Texas Legislature in 2005, allows workers who have a disability to receive Medicaid by paying a monthly premium. The premium is based on the person's income and other factors. For details about the new Medicaid Buy-In Program, view [the September/October 2006 issue of In Touch](#).

## Promoting CHIP and Children's Medicaid

*New tools available to promote CHIP and Children's Medicaid*

A new [CHIP/Children's Medicaid web page](#) offers tools and information for clients, their parents/guardians,

community-based organizations, and health plans regarding CHIP and Children’s Medicaid enrollment, cost, qualifications, renewal and other information. Another web page, entitled, [“Toolbox for Community-Based and Faith-Based Organizations,”](#) offers information for community-based organizations and health plans regarding public service announcements, outreach resources and materials and other information. Click on the links above to view details of these tools and information.

## Emergency/Disaster Planning

*DSHS Children with Special Health Care Needs publishes emergency/disaster planning booklet*

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program of the Texas Department of State Health Services recently published a bilingual booklet titled, [“Emergency and Disaster Planning for Children with Special Health Care Needs.”](#) All clients who receive CSHCN services or are on the waiting list for the CSHCN services will receive a copy of the booklet in early October. Others can download it for free.

## Food Bank Begins Outreach Efforts

*HHSC is launching a new \$475,000 outreach effort*

HHSC is launching a new \$475,000 outreach effort that will enlist volunteers at food banks to help Texans apply for state services. The initiative will allow the Texas Food Bank Network to hire community outreach liaisons for nine large food banks and provide administrative support for a comprehensive network of volunteers. The liaisons will organize local volunteers and others who already are in direct daily contact with people who have a food emergency.

## Questions and Answers

### Dental Issues

**Question:** Dad’s name is listed as the Guardian on patient’s form 3087. Dad cannot make the appointment and the Help Line told the family that the person listed on the 3087 must accompany the client in order to receive treatment. Do you know if the policy states that the person on the card must bring the child in?

**Answer:** The short answer is that the person listed on the H3087 does NOT have to be the one to bring the client to the visit. The relevant policy language is found in the [TMPPM 2006, Appendix K.4, Parental Accompaniment.](#)

### Medical Issues

**Question:** Multiple questions were received concerning billing and reimbursement for a THSteps provider who opens the practice to provide THSteps services outside of business hours and if they could bill for after hours visits.

**Answer:** After hour visits are usually related to an urgent medical need outside of the clinic’s normal hours. Therefore, if a provider has routine hours in the evening, then these would not be considered after hours. The intent for after-hours is that this is not during the routine scheduled hours of the provider. If the doctor is planning to put in extra hours after the normal posted hours then in effect he/she has extended the normal hours of operation and there is no extra Medicaid reimbursement. However, if the provider is providing after-hours care on an urgent basis or needed to return to the office to provide care then they could bill for an after-hours visit, one per day.

**Question:** Questions from providers regarding the immunization banner message posted by TMHP. They are asking which vaccines are going to be defined as one, two, or three components by the state.

**Answer:** A table was to have accompanied the web posting so that the providers would know which vaccines would require the U2 or U3 the modifier with the administration codes to obtain the enhanced payment. It should be on the website soon.

**Question:** Could you please make it clear for me about unlimited Rx’s?

**Answer:** In STAR+PLUS, if you are **NOT** dual eligible (Medicare/Medicaid), you receive unlimited RX’s. For those that **ARE** dual eligible, they receive their RX benefits through the Medicare Part D. In STAR, they still receive unlimited RX’s. Previously, before Medicare Part D was implemented, if you were dual and enrolled in both the same HMO for Medicaid and Medicare, you received unlimited scripts

For details about this project, view the HHSC new release entitled, [“HHSC, Food Banks to Begin New Outreach Effort.”](#)

provide small quantities (up to 200 or 250) of the brochure in English and Spanish upon request. Contact [Beverly MacCarty](#) at (512) 458-7111 ext. 6436 to request hardcopies of the brochure.

## CSHCN Medical Home Brochure

*Available online on the CSHCN web site*

The Medical Home Brochure included in the THSteps Overview for Managed Care Organizations presented on August 19, 2006, is available *only* as a PDF document in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) from the [DSHS CSHCN Services Program Medical Home web page.](#) CSHCN will

## Interesting Web Sightings

*Check out these informative web pages*

[The CHIP Enrollment, Renewal and Disenrollment Rates Report](#) - HHSC’s latest stats regarding CHIP enrollment, renewal, and disenrollment rates as of October 2006.

[The Texas STAR Medicaid Program and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) in Texas Renewal/Non-Renewal Survey Report for Fiscal Year 2006](#) – Results of a telephone survey conducted during April and May 2006 by Institute for Child Health Policy (ICHP) of caregivers of children enrolled or formerly enrolled in Medicaid STAR and CHIP. The primary goal of the survey was to understand better families' experiences with and understanding of the renewal process. An [analysis and summary of this survey](#) is available also on the HHSC web site.

Should you have questions regarding the information presented in this publication, please contact Marty Darnell, Program Specialist, THSteps Branch, at 512/458-7745.

