

CONNECTIONS



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What's New?

TMHP to enforce current cytopathologic, audiometric, and THSteps procedure coding policies

Effective September 1, 2006, TMHP will update Compass21 to reflect and enforce the current Cytopathology, Audiometric, and Texas Health Steps (THSteps) medical check-up procedure code policies.

- Audiometric procedure codes 92551 and 92552 will not be reimbursed by the Texas Medicaid Program if billed on the same day by the same provider with THSteps medical check-up procedure codes 99381, 99382, 99383, 99384, 99385, 99391, 99392, 99393, 99394, or 99395.
- Cytopathology procedure codes 88142, 88147, and 88164, will not be reimbursed by the Texas Medicaid Program if billed on the same day by the same provider with THSteps medical check-up procedure codes 99384, 99385, 99394, or 99395.

For more information, see the new [TMHP Banner Message #22](#) posted July 10, 2006, or call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.

Upcoming Events

TNA Training

THSteps Region 4 /5 North will host a Texas Nurses Association (TNA) *THSteps Pediatric Assessment Training*. The class will take place in Tyler, Texas, on July 19 - 21, 2006. For more information about enrolling in this class, the continuing education credit that can be earned, etc., visit the [TNA web site](#).

THSteps/Case Management Meeting

The combined THSteps/Case Management DSHS staff meeting will be held July 27, 2006 (9:00 a.m. CST-4:30 p.m.) at the DSHS offices in Austin.

Highlights of the topics to be covered are updates on Newborn Screening developments, Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment, and HHSC TMHP Contract Extension. Other topics to be covered are: verification of citizenship declarations, the medical home, PCCM services, and others.

The THSteps/Case Management combined meeting will be followed by the THSteps Regional Operations Team Lead meeting on Friday, July 28, 2006 (8:30 a.m. CST - noon). Updates will be provided on THSteps dental, TVFC and immunization policy, DSHS Laboratory, and others topics.

Regional Monthly Conference Call

The next regional monthly conference call is scheduled for September 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. CST. **Reminder:** No regional conference call is scheduled for August 2006.

Additional \$225 Million Available

HHS announces \$225 million for state and local pandemic influenza preparedness

According to a US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) News Release issued July 11, 2006, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt announced an additional \$225 million in funding for state and local influenza preparedness.

This funding announcement is part of \$350 million included in the recent emergency appropriations for upgrading state and local pandemic influenza preparedness passed by Congress in December and is part of President Bush's plan to mobilize the nation and prepare for an influenza pandemic.

For more details, see the [HHS New Release](#). In addition, view the [table outlining the funds](#) to be available for eligible jurisdictions. For more details, visit the [HHS's pandemic influenza preparedness web page](#).

New CDC ACIP Recommendation

Second dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine recommended

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in its meeting held June 29, 2006 in Atlanta, voted to recommend a second dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for children four

to six years old to further improve protection against the disease.

To learn more see the [CDC Press Release](#) issued June 29, 2006.

Newborn Screening Report Card

2006 March of Dimes Newborn Screening Report Card reflects US improvements

According to the *2006 March of Dimes Newborn Screening Report Card*, almost two-thirds of babies born in the United States receive most of the recommended newborn screening tests. Although this is good news, the bad news is that means about 1 million babies still are not screened properly. That lack of screening could result in serious complications, including brain damage or death, for babies with rare but potentially treatable metabolic disorders.

For more information see the [March of Dimes article on the US HHS web site](#).

Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccine

CDC's ACIP Recommends Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccine

CDC's Advisory Committee Recommends Human Papillomavirus Virus Vaccination Vaccine considered highly effective in preventing infections that are the cause of most cervical cancers.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted Thursday to recommend that a newly licensed vaccine designed to protect against human papillomavirus virus (HPV) be routinely given to girls when they are 11-12 years old. The ACIP recommendation also allows for vaccination of girls beginning at nine years old as well as vaccination of girls and women 13-26 years old. HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women. HPV vaccine currently is not in the system as a benefit, but will go through the usual policy process.

To learn more, see [CDC's Press Release](#) issued June 29, 2006.

Regions Plan for THSteps Experts Forums

Region 9/10 Forums

- San Angelo, July 25, 2006
- Odessa, July 26, 2006
- El Paso, July 28, 2006

In addition, a vision and hearing workshop is planned for October 2-6, 2006 in Midland, Texas, as well as a Comprehensive Pediatric Assessment training session scheduled for October 2006 (time and place to be determined).

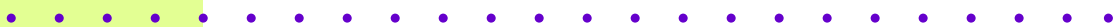
Questions and Answers

NOTE: The following questions resulted from an article in the July 6, 2006 THSteps Connections article entitled "CHIP Prenatal Care Program" (CHIP PCP). The article dealt with a "draft" HHSC document regarding the extension of CHIP services to unborn children of non-Medicaid eligible women below 200% of FPL through the CHIP PCP.

Question: Does CHIP coverage for the unborn child rather than the pregnant women mean that the delivery is still covered by Emergency Medicaid?
Answer: Yes, for women up to 185% of FPL. CHIP PCP covers the delivery for women from 186-200% of FPL.

Question: Is CHIP still restricted to citizens, or is there an assumption that these children will be in Texas/US when born, therefore becoming citizens?
Answer: Yes. CHIP PCP will be covering the unborn children of women that are not eligible for Medicaid due either to income or immigration status.

Question: Why is there flexibility to deem citizens for CHIP but not Medicaid?
Answer: In 2002, the federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted a final rule relating to an unborn child's eligibility for benefits under SCHIP that changed the definition of a "Child" to the following: "Child means an individual under the age of 19 including the period from conception to birth." Texas has just become the 9th state to apply this definition, which is



For more information on the forums and trainings, please contact Donna Peña at (915) 834-7733 or by e-mail at donna.pena@dshs.state.tx.us.

Region 11 Forums

- Laredo, July 24, 2006 (medical)
- Laredo, July 25, 2006 (dental)
- Corpus Christi, July 28, 2006 (dental)

For more information, please contact Ray Garza, THSteps Team Lead, at (956) 444-3257 or by e-mail at ray.garza@dshs.state.tx.us.

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

