

CONNECTIONS



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Inside this Issue

1	Transitioning to New I/E System
1	Upcoming Events
1	GO HEALTHY!
1	AAP and the Medical Home Model of Care
2	TMHP Medicaid Workshops
2	The Upshot
2	Friendly Reminders
2	Questions and Answers

Texas Health Steps Branch

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Transitioning to New I/E System

New Integrated Eligibility System for Medicaid, CHIP, Food Stamps, and TANF

Health and Human Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Anne Heiligenstein presented information regarding the State's new integrated eligibility system to the National Association for Program Information and Performance Measurement (NAPIPM) at its recent conference. In addition, she made similar presentations to the National Eligibility Workers (NEW) Association and Professionals Associated through Human Services (PATHS).

Take a look at the slide presentation entitled, [Texas' New Eligibility System](#), she used during these presentations.

Upcoming Events

Regional Monthly Conference Call

The next regional monthly conference call has been rescheduled for September 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. CST. Please submit agenda items to [Raymond Andrews](#), Program Specialist, THSteps Central Office, by the 5:00 p.m., September 1, 2006.

Upcoming THSteps Experts Forums

For details concerning future Region 9/10 Experts Forums, contact [Donna Pena](#), THSteps Regional Team Lead. In addition to the Experts Forums, THSteps Region 9/10 is planning a vision and hearing workshop 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). For more information on the forums and trainings, please contact Donna Pena at (915) 834-7733.

GO HEALTHY!

New Web Site Deals With Obesity in Children and Adolescents

The American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation have joined together to form the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to combat the spread of childhood obesity and the serious diseases associated with it, such as heart disease and diabetes. The Alliance takes a comprehensive approach to stop the increase in childhood obesity by 2010 and has sponsored a web site, [GO HEALTHY](#), for parents, teachers, companies, healthcare professionals, teens, and kids.

The site recommends ways that everyone can contribute to decreasing obesity in schools, at home, in restaurants, doctor's offices, and in the community. Of particular interest may be the web page for [schools](#).

AAP and the Medical Home Model of Care

American Academy of Pediatrics Urges Providers to employ Medical Home Concept of Care

The American Academy of Pediatrics has made available the latest electronic publication of "[Advancing New Systems of Care – The Medical Home & Early Child Development in Primary Care](#)" by Calvin C. J. Sia, MD, Lynn B. Wilson, PhD, Sharon Taba, MEd. This article urges providers to adopt the "Medical Home" model of care and



explains how particularly critically important it is for the care of children in their early years of life.

TMHP Medicaid Workshops

Texas Medicaid & Health Care Partnership (TMHP) Provider

Workshops for October 2006

TMHP will begin presenting the [Success With Medicaid Workshops October 2006](#). This link includes the dates, times, and registration information for each workshop, and a printable brochures. Workshops are geared for newer Medicaid providers and topics include, for example, explanations of private pay policies, claims submission and tracking, and claims appeals. Be sure to share this information with providers in your area.

The Upshot

August 2006 ImmTrac Newsletter recently released

The Texas Immunization Registry's third quarter newsletter, *The Upshot*, is available. Articles of interest include topics such as national provider identifier (NPI), safety of trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) among children 6-24 months old, and vaccine record cards. Check out the current issue of [The Upshot](#) on the Immunizations Branch web site.

Friendly Reminders

Quarterly Reports Due

The fourth Quarter Quarterly Reports will be due to Central Office by COB, Friday, September 15, 2005.

Call for Agenda Items

Prior to the October 5, 2006 regional monthly conference call, please contact Raymond Andrews, THSteps and submit your agenda item recommendations by COB, Friday, September 22, 2006.

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

Questions and Answers

Question: Does the DSHS Lab have to have the child's social security number (SSN) before they can do the lab work for Texas Health Steps providers?

Answer: The social security number (SSN) is not being required, but it is helpful to process billing when an additional verification is needed on a patient. The SSN may be used as a positive identifier at the patient level for any type of billing in the Medicaid system for all Medicaid lab work. Two pieces of information are needed to identify someone, usually name and DOB. If either item is missing, the SSN may be used. SSN is used as a patient identifier in the DSHS Lab billing database (to reduce the amount of duplicate patient entries). It can also be used as another identification point for other coverage (managed Care, Medicare, and Private Insurance, etc.). These are the only three items the DSHS Lab collects that can be used to search the Medicaid system.

Question: Are the THSteps forms in the TMHP provider manual and available on the website copyrighted? We would like to burn these to disk and provide to the network in a modifiable format so that providers can customize them electronically (e.g. clinic name, etc.) and wanted to ensure that it was appropriate for us to do so.

Answer: After consultation with the THSteps program attorneys regarding your question it was determined that the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) does not claim a copyright on the THSteps forms available on the website.

Question: If an orthodontia client has gone through their initial maximum 36 months prior authorized treatment plan but has not completed their treatment AND also is no longer eligible for THSteps Medicaid, can the provider be given an extension to the prior authorization in order to complete the treatment?

Answer: No, the provider will not be given an extension, because "Services cannot be added or approved after Medicaid THSteps eligibility has expired." See 2006 Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM) Section 20.21.2.

Question: If an orthodontia client has gone through their initial maximum 36 months prior authorized treatment plan but has not completed their treatment AND CONTINUES TO BE ELIGIBLE for THSteps Medicaid, can the provider be given an extension to the prior authorization in order to complete the treatment?

Answer: Yes, the provider can be given an extension to the prior authorization in order to complete the treatment. The provider must submit a THSteps Dental Mandatory Prior Authorization Request Form to TMHP (See 2006 TMPPM Appendix B.73) The provider should note the expired Prior Authorization and explain the need for the extension with details of how much more treatment and time is needed to complete the services. An additional sheet can be attached if needed. However, the provider's submission of the request is not a guarantee of approval of an extension. As a caveat, it must be stated that for recipients who have lost their Medicaid eligibility services may be able to be transferred and/or added if the original orthodontic provider is not able to complete the services due to death, illness, or similar circumstances and another provider must be selected to complete the services.

