



May 27, 2020

Updated: to reflect extended end date

THSteps Medical Checkups via Remote Delivery During Implementation of COVID-19 Restrictions

Dear Valued Provider:

Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided updated guidance regarding Texas Health Steps (THSteps) medical checkups during the period of COVID-19 social distancing. During this time, HHS is allowing remote delivery of certain components of medical checkups for children over 24 months of age (starting after the “24 month” checkup). This guidance is effective from May 7, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Because some of these requirements (like immunizations and physical exams) require an in-person visit, providers must follow-up with their patients to ensure completion of any components within 6 months of the telemedicine visit.

Financial Management Services Agencies (FMSAs) and Consumer Directed Services (CDS) employers are required to comply with all applicable employment-related laws, including the DOL temporary rule and associated guidance about the FFCRA.

- Telemedicine or telephone-only delivery of THSteps checkups for children birth through 24 months of age (i.e. from the first newborn checkup through the “24 month” checkup) is not permitted, use modifier 95 for remote services
- Providers should bill using the appropriate THSteps checkup codes for the initial visit as is currently required. Providers may also bill for “add-on” codes (e.g. developmental screening, mental health screening, etc.) as they normally would
- A patient’s home is not excluded as a THSteps site of service for medical checkups
- Providers may find recommended strategies at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) website to include curb-side/drive-through immunization clinics; <https://www.aap.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Providers should use their clinical judgement as to what components of the checkup may be appropriate for telemedicine (audio + visual) or telephone only delivery. Audio + visual delivery is preferred over telephone-only

For additional questions or concerns, please contact our Provider Services at 1-877-653-0331 Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time.