

the checkup



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A monthly publication of Texas Children's Health Plan

Take action NOW!

All providers must re-enroll in Texas Medicaid to comply with federal regulations! Any Medicaid provider enrolled before January 1, 2013, must be fully re-enrolled by September 25, 2016.

For help with enrollment please call **1-800-925-9126** or email **PE-Email@tmhp.com**.

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Getting started with e-prescribing of controlled substances

Current estimates show that **controlled substances comprise 12 percent of all prescriptions made each year**. Because these drugs have potential for abuse, dependence, and overdose, electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) was unavailable until the Drug Enforcement Administration legalized it in 2010. Since then, the number of electronic prescriptions has continued to climb.

Use the following steps to get started with e-prescribing.

Software Update

- Find out if the electronic health records (EHR) software version that your practice uses has already been certified and approved for Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS).

ID Proofing

- ID proofing can be done in-person or online, through companies that work with your EHR.
- For online ID proofing, you may need to answer a security question and email scanned copies of government-issued documents along with your photo and your medical license.

Two-Factor Authentication

- This double-level process ensures that only you can sign and send the controlled substance prescription to the pharmacy.
- There are various options: mobile phones, smart cards, fob tokens, USB thumb drives, and biometrics like fingerprint scanners.

Setting Software Access

- For this final step, you'll need two separate people to set secure access controls for your EHR e-prescribing software.
- One person needs to be a DEA registrant who has been ID-proofed and has their two-factor authentication method in place—this could be you.
- The other is a person who can confirm your identity, such as an office manager or another member of your practice but they do not need to be an employee of your practice.

NEXT

After completing the four required action steps, you will be able to legally transmit electronic prescriptions for controlled substances. You can trust that your EHR application has been certified to digitally sign a prescription for a controlled substance and send it to a pharmacy of the patient's choice. You, your patients and pharmacists can now enjoy the added convenience and security of EPCS!



Long Acting Reversible Contraception

Benefits for you and your patients!

Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) is highly effective methods of contraception and have the highest continuation and satisfaction rates. LARC can be used by most women, and increased use may reduce unintended pregnancy rates. Previously, hospitals were reimbursed as part of their typical maternity related reimbursement and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) were reimbursed as part of their typical encounter reimbursement.

Effective January 1, 2016, HHSC implemented Medicaid benefit changes in an effort to increase access to and utilization of LARCs in Texas Medicaid.

For more information on LARC billing, visit TheCheckup.org.

Prevent Behavioral Health Readmissions

Poor access to prescribed medications after discharge is one of the most common reasons for behavioral health readmissions. One effective way to help ensure access to medications post-discharge is to obtain and verify prior authorization for the medications before discharge. Texas Children's Health Plan follows the state of Texas Medicaid Guidelines for the use and approval of antipsychotics in children.

Criteria for approval can be accessed at our blog, TheCheckup.org/blog.

If a patient does not meet criteria and the prior authorization is denied, a medical director at Texas Children's Health Plan can review submitted appeal requests to approve based on medical necessity.

Another effective way to ensure access is to fill the prescription at discharge which can be done by hospital pharmacies or outside retail pharmacy delivery. The Texas Children's Health Plan Case Management staff is available at 832-828-1430 to work with you and your patients to help break down barriers that may be impacting their care. **Contact your Provider Relations representative at 832-828-1008 or toll-free at 1-800-731-8527** if you need guidance on the prior authorization and appeal process or for more information on participating retail pharmacies that can deliver your patient's medications prior to discharge.

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Medical Director, Texas Children's Health Plan



NEW

AUTHORIZATION LIST

The new behavioral health authorization form is now available. **Visit TheCheckup.org to access this form and other behavioral health resources.**

UPDATE

NON-EMERGENT AMBULANCE TRANSFERS

Effective
April 1, 2016

Texas Children's Health Plan members who require the use of an ambulance for non-emergent transport must have the request for authorization submitted by the member's physician, facility or health-care provider.

Texas Children's Health Plan does not accept authorization requests from ambulance/medical transportation vendors for non-emergency transport.

Please contact Texas Children's Health Plan Provider Relations with any questions at **832-828-1008** or **1-800-731-8527**.

FURTHER READING

You can go to our website and log-in to Provider TouCHPoint to learn more on topics like:

- Quality program goals, processes, and outcomes
- Referrals to case management
- Pharmaceutical management procedures
- Disease Management Programs
- Formulary
- How practitioners can access authorization criteria
- Limits/quotas
- Availability of staff to discuss authorization process
- Supporting an exception process
- Availability of TDD/TTY services
- Member rights and responsibilities
- Availability of language assistance for members
- Generic substitution, therapeutic interchange, and step therapy protocol
- Prohibiting financial incentives for utilization management decision makers
- Clinical practice guidelines and preventive health guidelines

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