

the **checkup**



by
Texas
Children's
Health Plan
Medical
Directors

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Dr. Hollier installed as ACOG president-elect

We are pleased to announce that **Lisa Hollier, M.D., MPH**, Chief Medical Officer for Obstetrics and Gynecology for Texas Children's Health Plan and Medical Director for the Centers for Children and Women, was installed as president-elect of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists on May 8, 2017.

"Dr. Hollier's career-long dedication to underserved and underrepresented women will make her a strong voice nationally and internationally advocating for all women to receive the best care," said Lou Fragoso, President of Texas Children's Health Plan. "Dr. Hollier strives to improve the health of all women as well as the health of their families and children, and I am honored to work with her."

Dr. Hollier will serve as president-elect for the May 2017-May 2018 term. She will become the 69th president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in May 2018.

PCPs OB/GYN's Office Manager's

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Postpartum depression toolkit available for Texas clinicians

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a common, potentially serious, and sometimes life-threatening condition. Although the term PPD is commonly used, it is important to note that depression can occur during pregnancy as well as after the baby is born.

The new **Texas Clinician's Postpartum Depression Toolkit** is intended to be a resource for Texas clinicians on screening, diagnosis, and treatment of PPD. The toolkit also includes coverage and reimbursement options for PPD through Medicaid, CHIP, the Healthy Texas Women Program, the Family Planning Program, and other referral options.

The toolkit may be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/yanxxr2y>

All women should undergo screening for postpartum depression at the postpartum visit. In addition, Texas Children's Health Plan reimburses providers for maternal depression screening that is conducted during a well-child visit. Postpartum depression screening utilizing the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale may be reimbursed up to 2 times per member ages 0-6 months, using CPT code 96161.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



NOTICE TO PRESCRIBERS: Mosquito Repellent Benefit

Texas covers select mosquito repellents for the prevention of Zika virus. The following notice describes how clients may access mosquito repellent through Medicaid and other state programs, and provides essential information for prescribers regarding the mosquito repellent benefit.

Covered programs:

1. Medicaid (managed care, MCO; and fee-for-service, FFS) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and CHIP-Perinatal
2. Healthy Texas Women
3. Children with Special Health Care Needs Services Program (CSHCN)
4. Family Planning Program

Please go to TheCheckup.org for complete article.

Texas becomes 4th state to launch Universal Baby Box University Program to equip new parents to give their babies a healthy start in life

Encourage your patients to be a part of the Baby Box movement, which promotes safe sleep for infants! Texas has become the 4th state to launch Baby Box University, which helps new parents give their babies a healthy start in life. The Baby Box program is designed to encourage mothers to get prenatal care and promote a good relationship between moms-to-be and their doctors.

By completing an online syllabus through the company's educational platform, Baby Box University, all new and expecting parents in Texas will receive a Baby Box to ensure their infants have a safe, equitable start in life. The program will provide education to distribute up to 400,000 free Baby Boxes, which is the estimated number of Texas babies expected be delivered within one year, according

to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Texas Children's Health Plan and The Center for Children and Women are pleased to participate as partners for the Texas program.

"We are very proud to be partnering with what I feel is a much needed program in the Texas healthcare system," said Dr. Lisa Hollier, Chief Medical Officer for Texas Children's Health Plan, Medical Director of The Center for Children and Women, and president-elect of ACOG.

"Our members and patients are what matters most to our organization, and to be able to provide such a benefit to our pregnant mothers – the education, support and supplies every new mother needs to successfully care for her baby – warms my heart and aligns with our primary goal and promise, which is to help create a healthier future for our children."

Patients can find out how to get their free Baby Box by going to BabyBoxUniversity.com and registering as a Texas resident. After a short course and quiz, they will get instructions on how to receive their Baby Box.



Are oral steroids being overused for children with asthma?

Oral corticosteroids have been shown to definitively benefit children with moderate to severe asthma exacerbations. However, they show no benefit and even possible harm for children with minimal-to-mild exacerbations. Recent research using data from Texas Children's Health Plan has found very high rates of oral corticosteroid dispensing in the past year for children with a diagnosis of asthma: close to 50% for children under 5 years, and close to 40% of children over 5 years. There was large variation in oral corticosteroid dispensing rates by pediatrician primary care providers, but no difference in asthma hospitalization rates comparing the low prescribers to the high prescribers.

Oral corticosteroids are not appropriate for cough or wheeze that is not caused by asthma. Oral corticosteroids

are not appropriate for mild asthma exacerbations that will most likely resolve on their own with just symptomatic therapy. Oral corticosteroids are not appropriate if the patient has a normal oxygen saturation ($\geq 96\%$ on room air) and has a normal respiratory rate. Early administration of oral corticosteroids may be considered if the patient has a history of rapidly progressing, life-threatening asthma exacerbations. Prompt administration of oral corticosteroid medication is important for a moderate to severe asthma exacerbation with increased respiratory rate, nasal flaring, or accessory muscle use.

The best option is to take a tempered approach to the use of oral corticosteroids.

Please go to TheCheckup.org for complete article.

PROVIDER ALERT

Codeine and Tramadol should **NOT** be prescribed for children

On April 20, 2017 the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a statement that CODEINE is CONTRAINDICATED for treatment of pain or cough for children under 12 years. They also warn against its use in adolescents 12-18 years old, especially those with obesity, obstructive sleep apnea, or severe lung disease. The FDA considers TRAMADOL to be CONTRAINDICATED for children younger than 18 to treat pain from tonsillectomy or adenoidectomy. **Note that Tramadol is not FDA approved for use in children.**

The FDA notes reports of serious breathing problems and deaths from use of codeine and/or tramadol in children. Some children metabolize codeine and tramadol much faster to their active form (called ultra-rapid metabolism) causing potentially dangerously high levels to accumulate in their bodies too quickly. Codeine is a prodrug that is metabolized to morphine.

This advice is consistent with the September 2016 Policy Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics entitled, *Codeine: Time to Say "No."*

In continued efforts to ensure the quality of care delivered to our members, Texas Children's Health Plan will be monitoring prescriptions of Codeine and Tramadol to our pediatric members.

For complete information, go to TheCheckup.org



For further reading

You can go to our website and log-in to Provider TouCHPoint to learn more about important topics.



Outpatient Authorizations accepted online via Clear Coverage™

Texas Children's Health Plan now accepts Outpatient Authorizations for many services online via Clear Coverage effective June 1, 2017.

What are the benefits?

- Easy, 24/7 online access to Clear Coverage.
- Receive real-time authorization status by viewing your office's home page in Clear Coverage.
- Services are immediately uploaded into Texas Children's Health Plan's authorization for clinical review.
- Automatic APPROVALS may be obtained for Genetic Testing via online medical necessity review.
- Ability to upload medical records to support authorization requests.
- Verify member eligibility and benefits instantaneously.
- Ability to print proof of authorization.

How does it work?

- Access Clear Coverage through the Texas Children's Health Plan Provider Web Portal.
- Take the online Clear Coverage training. Takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
- Schedule an on-site Clear Coverage Training by contacting your Provider Relations Manager.

Want to learn more?

- Visit the Texas Children's Health Plan Provider Web Portal at www.texaschildrenshealthplan.org/for-providers
- Contact your Provider Relations Manager today.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Provider Relations Manager at 832-828-1008 or toll-free at 1-800-731-8527 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

- Tired of faxing authorization requests and medical records?
- Spending too much time on hold waiting to speak to an Authorization Specialist for non-urgent authorization requests?
- Looking for a faster, more efficient way to submit authorizations?
- Why not submit your authorizations request through Clear Coverage?



Attention STAR Kids Providers

Authorization Extension for STAR Kids Members

The Health and Human Services Commission expects managed care organizations to extend long term services and supports (such as Personal Care Services, Community First Choice, and Private Duty Nursing) authorizations for services until completion of the STAR Kids Screening and Assessment Instrument (SAI), but no longer than July 1, 2017.

For complete information, go to TheCheckup.org.

Texas Standard Prior Authorization form available

Texas Children's Health Plan prefers the submission of the Texas Standard Prior Authorization form for prior authorization requests, excluding LTSS services. Requests should also include supporting clinical documentation as per the Texas Children's Health Plan Authorization Guidelines. The form is available on the Texas Children's Health Plan website at <http://www.texaschildrenshealthplan.org/for-providers/resources/downloadable-forms>

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