

Mental Health Screenings to Change for Texas Health Steps Effective July 1, 2018

Note: Texas Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) must provide all medically necessary, Medicaid-covered services to eligible clients. Administrative procedures such as prior authorization, pre-certification, referrals, and claims/encounter data filing may differ from traditional Medicaid (fee-for-service) and from MCO to MCO. Providers should contact the client's specific MCO for details.

Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2018, mental health screening benefits will change for Texas Health Steps.

Overview of Benefit Changes

Mental health screening for behavioral, social and emotional development is required at each Texas Health Steps checkup birth through age 20.

Major changes to this medical benefit policy include the following:

- Changes to limitation for mental health screening for clients 12 through 18 years of age
- Update to mental health screening tools recognized by Texas Health Steps

Limitation Change for Mental Health Screening

Effective July 1, 2018, Texas Health Steps will allow clients 12 through 18 years of age to receive a mental health screening (procedure codes 96160 or 96161) using one or more of the validated, standardized mental health screening tools recognized by Texas Health Steps, once per calendar year during a Texas Health Steps checkup.

Texas Health Steps recommends all clients who are 12 through 18 years of age receive a mental health screening using one of the Texas Health Steps recognized mental health screening tools

Update to Mental Health Screening Tools Recognized by Texas Health Steps

The following validated, standardized mental health screening tools will be added:

- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) Modified for Adolescents (PHQ-A [depression screen])
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-A [anxiety, eating problems, mood problems and substance abuse])

Providers may refer to the current *Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Children's Services Handbook*, subsection 5.3.11.1.3 "Mental Health Screening," for additional Texas Health Steps Mental Health Screening information.

For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.