THSteps Medical and Dental Checkups for Migrant Farm Workers and Their Families

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TMHP is working closely with HHSC to educate migrant farm workers and their children about services covered by Medicaid and the importance of receiving timely Texas Health Steps (THSteps) medical and dental checkups. The children of migrant farm workers are identified as needing additional assistance because of unconventional living conditions, migratory work patterns, unhealthy working conditions, poverty, poor nutrition, lack of education, and illiteracy—all factors that contribute to poor health. TMHP is continuing its efforts to increase the number of children of migrant farm workers who receive their THSteps medical and dental checkups on time.

Children of migrant farm workers who are 3 years of age and older will still be considered “due” for a THSteps medical checkup on their birthday and will be encouraged to have a yearly checkup as soon as they become due. A THSteps checkup should occur on or soon after a child’s birthday, but will not be considered late unless a child does not have the checkup before their next birthday. Providers can perform one THSteps checkup per year for a child who is 3 years of age or older and submit a claim and still receive reimbursement, even for a checkup performed before the birth date/due date.

For more information about the change in timeliness of THSteps medical checkups, providers can refer to the July/August 2010 Texas Medicaid Bulletin, No. 230. For more information about the THSteps preventative care medical benefits change, providers can refer to the November/December 2009, Texas Medicaid Bulletin, No. 226.

Providers can refer their Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) clients and migrant families to PCCM Community Health Services coordinators for assistance by faxing the PCCM Community Health Services Referral Request Form to 1-512-302-0318. The form is available on this website.

PCCM Community Health Services coordinators identify and provide outreach to the children of the migrant farm worker population in Texas. Migrant families are educated on the availability of accelerated services for their children's THSteps medical and dental checkups. Coordinators also educate migrant families on all available PCCM benefits and services, as well as confirming that families have an established primary care provider.

For more information on community health services, providers can refer to the 2010 Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Vol.1: General Information, subsection 8.6.11.2, “Client Support and Education.”

In addition, TMHP is continuing to partner and build relationships with state and local agencies, independent school districts, migrant licensed-housing facilities, Regional Education Service Centers, and local businesses to identify and reach out to PCCM clients in migrant farm families who are 20 years of age and younger.

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