Update to: ‘Texas Medicaid to Add Mosquito Repellant Products to the Texas Medicaid and CHIP Formularies Beginning August 9, 2016’

Information posted August 16, 2016

This is an update to the article titled “Texas Medicaid to Add Mosquito Repellant Products to the Texas Medicaid and CHIP Formularies Beginning August 9, 2016,” which was posted on this website on August 5, 2016. The Texas Medicaid Director has issued a Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent for use by pharmacies.

The following is the complete, updated article:

Beginning August 9, 2016, Texas Medicaid added mosquito repellent products to the Texas Medicaid and CHIP formularies. The repellent products were added as a result of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) informational bulletin that provides information on Medicaid benefits available for the prevention, detection, and response to the Zika virus.

These benefits apply for Fee-for-Service (FFS) Texas Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care (MCO), the Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN) Services Program, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), CHIP Perinatal, Healthy Texas Women, and the Family Planning program.

The CMS bulletin allows state Medicaid programs to choose to cover mosquito repellents when prescribed by an authorized health professional and provided as a pharmacy benefit. Because there is not a vaccine to prevent the disease or medicine to treat it, it is important for women to use repellent to protect themselves and unborn babies.

The Texas Medicaid Medical Director has issued a Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent for use by pharmacies. Eligible clients that use pharmacies that dispense mosquito repellent under this standing order will not require a prescription to be written by their healthcare provider. The Texas Medicaid Standing Order for Mosquito Repellent is available for Texas Medicaid (FFS and MCO) and CHIP clients at participating pharmacies.

The following information provides details surrounding the Texas Medicaid insect repellent benefit, recommends how to prescribe mosquito repellent to Texas Medicaid clients as a prescription, and also contains general information about Zika virus. For information on Zika testing, please visit www.texaszika.org/labs.htm.

**Benefit Details**

**Eligible Clients**

- Females ages 10-45
- Pregnant women of any age

**Benefit Limits**

- 1 can/bottle of mosquito repellent per prescription fill, with one additional refill allowed per client, per calendar month through October 31, 2016
Programs Included

- Fee for Service Medicaid
- Medicaid Managed Care
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- CHIP-Perinate
- Healthy Texas Women
- Family Planning
- Children with Special Healthcare Needs (CSHCN)

Covered products

Covered products* have been selected based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and include the recommended amount of the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin.

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<th>Billing NDC</th>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Product UPC</th>
<th>Package Size</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
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*As of August 9, 2016. The list of covered products may change as additional mosquito repellents are added to the formulary. Please download the Zika Products Pharmacy Assistance Chart for a current list of covered mosquito repellents.

**How to Prescribe Mosquito Repellent**

For clients unable to access a pharmacy operating under a standing order for the dispensing of mosquito repellent, prescribers are recommended to include the following details when prescribing mosquito repellent to help minimize requests for clarification from pharmacies, or request for refills for mosquito repellent within the current mosquito season.

**Recommended prescription details**

- **Drug Name:** "Mosquito repellent"
  - Mosquito repellent will be treated as a generic medication, and pharmacies will have the authority to fill the prescription with any covered product
  - Specify the active ingredient if your patient cannot tolerate both and note "Do not substitute"
- **Directions:** Spray topically as directed for the prevention of Zika virus
- **Quantity:** 1 can/bottle
- **Refills:** 11
- **It is recommended that prescribers send prescriptions to pharmacies via phone, fax, or electronic prescription to minimize office visits.**
- **Prescribers should not schedule office visits solely for clients to obtain a mosquito repellent prescription, unless medically necessary.**
- **Prescribers should consider offering mosquito repellent prescriptions to eligible clients at any pre-scheduled office visits to minimize follow up requests for mosquito repellents.**
- **Clients in the Healthy Texas Women programs do not require a standing order or prescription. Pharmacies have been provided with claims submission instructions for the Healthy Texas Women programs.**

**Other Benefits Available Through Texas Medicaid**

The following benefits are covered under current Texas Medicaid, and they may be helpful to clients who contract the Zika virus:
- Family planning services
- Contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraceptives
- Diagnostic testing
- Targeted case management
- Physical therapy
- Long term services and support
- Acetaminophen and oral electrolytes for Zika symptoms
- Potential coverage for additional ultrasounds for pregnant women

Zika Virus

Zika is a virus spread to people through infected mosquitoes. The virus can also be spread through sexual contact and from mother to fetus during pregnancy.

Most people infected with the virus have mild or no symptoms. Symptoms are usually mild and typically last a few days to a week. The most common symptoms of Zika virus are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms may be mild and not last long, but the virus may stay in a person's system for weeks to months.

Avoidance of Zika virus is important in pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects, including microcephaly.

Prevention of Zika virus

- Prevent mosquito bites
  - Use mosquito repellent, as directed on the can/bottle
  - Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants
  - Stay in places with air conditioning or screens on windows and doors
  - Remove standing water around your home
- Pregnant women should not travel to areas with Zika virus
- Pregnant women who have a male partner who lives in or has traveled to an area with Zika virus should not have sex or should use condoms every time during pregnancy.

Additional Resources

- TexasZika.org – The Texas Department of State Health Services site includes excellent, up-to-date resources for health care professionals and consumers. Informational materials may be ordered at no cost to providers.
- TexasZika.org/labs.htm -- For information about testing for Zika
- CDC.gov/zika -- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Zika update page
- txVendorDrug.com – For additional information about prescribing and dispensing mosquito repellent
Questions?
Prescribers with questions may contact the patient’s MCO provider line. For patients in fee-for-service, prescribers may send their questions to VDP_Formulary@hhsc.state.tx.us.