

Notice to Prescribers: Mosquito Repellent Benefit

Texas now covers select mosquito repellents under the Medicaid (fee-for-service and managed care), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Healthy Texas Women programs. The Kidney Health Care program does not cover these products.

On June 1, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an informational bulletin on Medicaid benefits available for the prevention, detection, and response to the Zika virus. 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.

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.

Eligible women in the Healthy Texas Women program may obtain mosquito repellent without a prescription.

The following information provides details about the Texas Medicaid mosquito repellent benefit, recommends how to prescribe mosquito repellent to Texas Medicaid clients as a prescription for clients without access to pharmacies using a standing order, and also contains general information about Zika virus. For information on Zika testing, please visit www.TexasZika.org/labs.

Benefit Details

Eligible Clients:

- Females aged 10-45 years and 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:

- Medicaid (FFS and MCO), CHIP, CHIP-Perinate, Healthy Texas Women, Family Planning, and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

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.*
- *Please specify the active ingredient if your patient cannot tolerate both and note "Do not substitute"*

Directions: Use topically, as directed

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.

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. Please download the [Zika Products Pharmacy Assistance Chart](#) for a current list of covered mosquito repellents.

Other Benefits Available Through Texas Medicaid

The following benefits are covered under current Texas Medicaid and 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 mosquitos. 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 lasts 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 window and door screens
 - 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 the right way, every time, during pregnancy.

Additional Resources

- www.TexasZika.org -- 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.
- For information about testing for Zika, please see TexasZika.org/labs.htm
- www.cdc.gov/zika/
- www.txVendorDrug.com -- Texas Vendor Drug Program site 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 questions to VDP_Formulary@hhsc.state.tx.us