

Mosquito Repellent Benefit to Begin February 12

Beginning Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, mosquito repellent for the prevention of Zika virus will become a continuous, year-round benefit for Texas Medicaid and CHIP. Approved notices are being finalized for client (including Spanish translation) and provider materials. MCOs must begin to adjudicate claims for mosquito repellent no later than Feb. 12. MCOs that do not implement system configurations as noted above must notify their MCCO team and provide the expected completion date including any challenges.

Benefit and claims submission details will remain the same as those implemented in 2017 with the exception of the end date. The benefit that begins Feb. 12 will not have an end date.

Benefit details

- Start date: Feb. 12, 2018
- Covered programs: Medicaid, CHIP, and CHIP-Perinatal
- Eligible members:
 - pregnant women of any age
 - females, ages 10 through 55
 - males, age 14 and older
- The pharmacy benefit for approved mosquito repellents is limited to one can/bottle per prescription fill, with up to two fills allowable per calendar month.
- A prescription is required for claim approval of mosquito repellent when the standing order is not used by a pharmacy.

Expectations

MCOs are to offer all mosquito repellents that appear on the Texas formulary as a pharmacy benefit to eligible clients in the covered programs noted above. Formulary repellents will continue to be designated with "ZIK" on the DEL file.

Claim Submission

- Days' supply per can is unknown and submitted values will likely vary greatly. It is recommended that claims processing systems bypass edits on this data element or apply reasonable billing requirements and edits that do not severely restrict access to the covered products.
- Pregnant females in Medicaid should be identified with type programs "40" or "42".
- A claim should not exceed total payment of \$6.50 per can/bottle, including ingredient cost, dispensing fee and any other fees. Note: Reimbursement below \$6.50 per claim is authorized if the health plan can demonstrate adequate availability of covered mosquito repellents at that pharmacy acquisition cost.

- Claims should bypass third-party billing edits for covered mosquito repellent claims

The standing order for mosquito repellent will remain in effect and available for use by pharmacies for Medicaid and CHIP members. The current standing order has an expiration of Apr. 10, 2018. A renewed standing order will be distributed mid-March. MCOs must communicate details of the benefit's start to members. MCOs do not require communication approval from MCCO if the notice has previously been approved provided the only information changing is related to benefit coverage dates. Additional revisions to the member notice require review and approval prior to distribution.

Mosquito repellent benefit materials are available at txvendordrug.com/formulary/formulary/mosquito-repellent.

Please continue to use www.TexasZika.org as a resource for information related to the Zika virus.

