

EL PASO FIRST

Health Plans, inc.

Additional Mental Health Screening Tool for THSteps Checkups

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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 February 1, 2017, the Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17) may be used during a Texas Health Steps (THSteps) checkup, when performing the required mental health screening for clients who are 12 through 18 years of age.

As a reminder, mental health screening for behavioral, social, and emotional development is required at each THSteps checkup. Mental health screening using one of the following validated, standardized mental health screening tools recognized by THSteps is required once per lifetime for all clients who are 12 through 18 years of age.

- Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35)
- Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 (PSC-17)
- Pediatric Symptom Checklist for Youth (Y-PSC)
- Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)
- Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Family, and Trouble Checklist (CRAFFT)

The client's medical record must include documentation that a mental health screening was completed at each THSteps checkup. For screenings using one of the validated, standardized mental health screening tools, the documentation must identify the tool that was used, the screening results, and any referrals that were made.

Providers may be reimbursed separately when using one of the required screening tools during a THSteps checkup. Procedure code 96160 or 96161 must be submitted on the same date of service by the same provider as procedure code 99384, 99385, 99394, or 99395, and reimbursement is limited to once per lifetime per client. Procedure codes 96160 and 96161 will not be reimbursed for the same client for any date of service.

Providers may refer to the current *Texas Medicaid Providers Procedure Manual, Children's Services Handbook*, subsection 5.3.11.1.3, "Mental Health Screening," for additional information about mental health screening requirements.

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