

**An Important Message from
The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**

Reinstatement of CHIP Co-pays for COVID-19 Vaccines, Treatment, and Testing Services

To comply with Section 9821 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, HHSC must ensure COVID-19 related vaccine, treatment, and testing services are provided without cost-sharing, including co-pays effective March 11, 2021, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the COVID-19 public health emergency period (which is September 30, 2024).

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers have been prohibited from collecting co-payments for COVID-19 related vaccines (and the administration of such vaccine), testing, and treatment, including preventative therapies; treatment of post-COVID-19 conditions (e.g., long-haul COVID-19); and treatment of health conditions that may seriously complicate the treatment of COVID-19 during the period when a beneficiary is diagnosed with, or is presumed to have, COVID-19.

Aligned with federal requirements, HHSC will reinstate co-pays for CHIP COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and testing services on October 1, 2024.

The reinstatement of co-pays for CHIP COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and testing services does not apply to:

- Mental health and substance use disorder outpatient office visits. Co-pays have been permanently removed for mental health and substance use disorder outpatient office visits to comply with federal regulations.

This notice provides guidance to CHIP providers on required actions as a result of the reinstatement of co-pays for CHIP COVID-19 vaccines, treatment and testing services.

Questions?

Please contact your physician advocate or call UnitedHealthcare Provider Services, toll-free, at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.