

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

**Reminder: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment  
Coverage Requirements**

**Background:**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) coverage entitles Medicaid enrolled infants, children and adolescents to any treatment or procedure that fits within any of the categories of Medicaid-covered services listed in Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act. EPSDT requires all states to provide all medically necessary treatment for correction or amelioration of physical or mental illnesses and conditions to eligible clients from birth through 20 years of age when federal financial participation is available, even if the services are not covered under the Texas Medicaid state plan.

**Key Details:**

Section 8.2.2.3.7 of the [Uniform Managed Care Contract](#), Section 8.1.24.3 of the [STAR Kids Managed Care Contract](#), and Section 2.6.58.8 of the [Full STAR Health Contract](#), require **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas (UHC)** to prior authorize and provide all medically necessary services listed in Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act to Members age 20 and younger through the Texas Health Steps Comprehensive Care Program in accordance with [Section 1905\(r\) of the Social Security Act](#). **UHC** must provide Texas Health Steps Comprehensive Care Program services in accordance with service limitations specified in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, [Children's Services Handbook, Chapter 2](#).

The EPSDT coverage requirements include clinical laboratory services, inclusive of biomarker testing, as required under [Section 1905\(r\)\(1\)\(B\)\(iv\) of the Social Security Act](#) and Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 441.56(b)(1)(v).

Services required by EPSDT, including Texas Health Steps Comprehensive Care Program services, are not considered Case-by-case Services or Value-added Services.

**Action:**

As required in Sections 8.1.24.3.4-5 of the [STAR Kids Managed Care Contract](#) and Section 2.6.7.3 of the [Full STAR Health Contract](#), **UHC** must provide member education and outreach, as well as provider training, related to the Texas Health Steps – Comprehensive Care Program and EPSDT coverage requirements.

**Resources:**

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Requirements](#)

[Medicaid.gov Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment](#)

[EPSDT - A Guide for States: Coverage in the Medicaid Benefit for Children and Adolescents](#)

Texas Medicaid Medical and Dental Benefits Policy at  
[MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us).

**Additional Questions?**

Please contact UnitedHealthcare Customer Service at 888-887-9003, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday.