

Prescriber Zika Notice

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. Because there is not a vaccine to prevent the disease or medicine to treat it, it is important for women to use repellent to protect themselves and unborn babies.

Texas Medicaid has responded by adding mosquito repellent products to the Texas Medicaid and CHIP formularies, beginning August 9, 2016. The following information provides details surrounding the Texas Medicaid insect repellent benefit, recommends how to prescribe mosquito repellent to Texas Medicaid clients as a prescription, 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:

Fee for Service Medicaid, Managed Care Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), CHIP-Perinate, Healthy Texas Women, and Family Planning

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.

Billing NDC	Product Name	Product UPC	Package Size	Unit of Measure	Active Ingredient
11423000338	Repel Sportsmen Max 40% spray	011423003387	184	GM	DEET
11423094133	Repel Sportsmen Dry 25% spray	011423941337	113	GM	DEET
11423094137	Repel Sportsmen 25% spray	011423941375	184	GM	DEET
11423094139	Repel Hunter's 25% spray	011423941399	184	GM	DEET
46500001842	Off Deep Woods 25% spray	046500018428	170	GM	DEET
46500071764	Off Deep Woods Dry 25% spray	046500717642	113	GM	DEET
71121096280	Cutter Backwoods 25% spray	071121962805	170	GM	DEET
71121096283	Cutter Backwoods 25% spray	071121962836	311	GM	DEET
71121096435	Cutter Backwoods Dry 25% spray	071121964359	113	GM	DEET
44224006878	Natrapel 20% spray	044224068781	177	ML	Picaridin

50716000544	Insect Repellent 20% spray (Sawyer)	050716005448	118	ML	Picaridin
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*As of August 9, 2016. The list of covered products may change as additional mosquito repellents are added to the formulary.

How to Prescribe 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: Spray topically as directed for the prevention of Zika virus

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.
- Only eligible Medicaid, CHIP, and Healthy Texas Women clients require a prescription for mosquito repellent.

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/

Questions?

Prescribers with questions may contact the patient's MCO provider line. For patients in fee-for-service, prescribers may send their questions to VDP_Formulary@hhsc.state.tx.us