




Texas Health Steps providers who are interested in learning more about the Medicaid Vendor Drug Program can take the free online Texas Health Steps Pharmacy continuing education (CE) course.

 The University of Texas College of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. The Pharmacy Course Topic is approved for 1 CEU (1 contact hour) of continuing education credit.

To access the Pharmacy course and all of the Texas Health Steps CE training, visit [txhealthsteps.com](http://txhealthsteps.com).

TEXAS MEDICAID VENDOR DRUG  
[www.txvendordrug.com](http://www.txvendordrug.com)

TEXAS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION HOTLINE  
(Prescribing provider or  
provider representative only)  
1-877-PA-Texas (1-877-728-3927)

ONLINE TRAINING  
[txhealthsteps.com](http://txhealthsteps.com)

MEDICAID CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR CHILDREN  
PROGRAM (CCP)  
1-800-846-7470



## TEXAS MEDICAID VENDOR DRUG PROGRAM





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The Texas Medicaid Vendor Drug Program (VDP) provides statewide access to prescription medications as prescribed by the treating physician or other health-care provider for clients eligible for:

- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program
- Kidney Health Care (KHC)

VDP reimburses contracted pharmacies for a broad formulary of drugs for these state health-care programs. The Medicaid formulary consists of preferred and non-preferred drugs. Drugs that are non-preferred require prior authorization (PA). Some drugs on the Medicaid formulary (whether preferred or non-preferred) may also be subject to clinical edits that require prior authorization.

### WHERE TO FIND VDP DRUG FORMULARY INFORMATION

VDP drug formulary information is available to health-care providers to help their clients efficiently get their medications. Information includes which state health-care program covers the drug, whether a Medicaid non-preferred PA or clinical PA is required, and other important drug information. VDP drug formulary information is available:

- Online at [www.txvendordrug.com](http://www.txvendordrug.com)  
All state health-care program formulary information.
- Online at [www.smartformulary.com/tx](http://www.smartformulary.com/tx).  
Here you will find Medicaid drug formulary and Preferred Drug List information with links attached to selected non-preferred drugs that will guide you to the preferred drugs in that therapeutic class.
- Through Epocrates, a free drug information service that can be downloaded to your Palm, BlackBerry, Windows Mobile phone, or iPhone. In addition to listing a drug's preferred status, Epocrates includes drug monographs, dosing information, and warnings. For more information, go to [www.epocrates.com](http://www.epocrates.com). All providers are also eligible to register for Epocrates.

### MEDICAID PREFERRED DRUG LIST

The Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) was implemented in 2004. Those drugs identified as non-preferred require prior authorization.

Any time a provider prescribes a medication, the provider should follow the procedures below before the client leaves the medical office:

- Check the PDL to see if the medication is preferred or non-preferred.
- If the medication is non-preferred, check the PDL to see if there is a suitable preferred alternative.
- If the only appropriate medication is non-preferred, obtain the required prior authorization.

With a few simple steps, health-care providers can help their Medicaid clients get their medications quickly and conveniently. By prescribing a preferred product or obtaining a prior authorization before the client leaves the office, the prescription can be filled without delay. This eliminates the need for the pharmacy to contact the prescribing provider's office for a therapeutic substitution to initiate the prior authorization process.

### OBTAINING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

To obtain prior authorization for any VDP medication, prescribing providers or their representatives should call the Texas Prior Authorization Hotline at 1-877-PA-TEXAS (1-877-728-3927). The Hotline is available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (CST).

*Note: Pharmacists **cannot** obtain prior authorization for medications. If the client arrives at the pharmacy without a prior authorization for a non-preferred drug, the pharmacist will alert the provider's office and ask the provider to get the prior authorization.*

### 72-HOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY

It is the provider's responsibility to obtain the prior authorization. In the event prior authorization has not been obtained at the time the prescription is presented at the pharmacy, pharmacies are allowed to provide a 72-hour emergency supply of the medication while the provider obtains prior authorization.

Dispensing an emergency supply provides the client with an immediate dose of their medication but requires a return trip to the pharmacy for their full or alternate therapy.

More information on the 72-hour Emergency Supply program is available online at [www.txvendordrug.com](http://www.txvendordrug.com).

### TEXAS HEALTH STEPS (THSTEPS) MEDICAID CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM (CCP)

CCP may cover some products that are available in pharmacies that are not covered by VDP. Products such as some over-the-counter drugs and disposable or expendable supplies may be considered for coverage for Medicaid children (age birth through 20 years). Prior authorization, including a statement of medical necessity, is required for all services and products available through CCP. Upon receipt, the product will be considered for coverage through CCP. Assistance with this program is available by calling CCP at 1-800-846-7470.