

**DSHS HIV Clinical Panel Quarterly Call
September 24, 2020**

Topic: Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) Updates – Q &A

Does the same prescriber need to sign the Medication Certification Form (MCF) for non-HIV medications? For example, our provider does not prescribe other medications not related to the Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART). Would two different providers need to sign the MCF.

- If prescriptions are with the same provider/clinic THMP needs the HIV provider to sign the MCF for consistency.
- The MCF needs to include at least one Anti-retroviral or an explanation of why this isn't included. THMP needs to the MCF to include all currently prescribed medications the client needs to receive through THMP.

When will fostemsavir/rukobia will be approved on THMP? I have several patients waiting for that because they have extensive drug class resistance.

- This recommendation from the MAC is still pending approval.

Waiting for the [Medication Certification Form \(MCF\)](#) to be obtained/sent/received for a medication change (resistance or side-effects) can really slow a medication change. What is the necessity of this form? And any advice on getting this done quickly?

- The MCF is one form of required documentation that verifies client eligibility and approved medications. It also helps the program to anticipate medication usage.
- In most instances, MCFs are processed within 24 hours of receipt.
- THMP has recently implemented a new processing system which created some temporary delays.
- To ensure that MCFs are processed timely:
 - Please verify that all medications prescribed are on the THMP approved formulary
 - Dosages are correct
 - Prescribing clinician has **signed** the **MCF**.

What are the requirements to be on the THMP Medication Advisory Committee (MAC)?

- The MAC has eleven members comprised of a variety of clinical providers, administrators, and consumers that review requests to add medications to THMP formulary.
- The MAC can make a recommendation to the Commissioner that a medication be approved.
- MAC members must go through an application process and are ultimately appointed by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services.
 - DSHS will share the application announcement with the HIV Clinical Panel. Information on the THMP MAC is here: dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/meds/advise.shtm
- Requests to add medications can be made by pharmaceutical companies, pharmacists, clinical providers, and community members:
 - The link that explains how to request medications be added to the THMP formulary is here: dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/policy/policies/700-001.shtm

What role does THMP play in [RAPID START](#) (Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy) especially during the pandemic?

- The time that it takes to approve applications and medications for clients is a limitation for participating in RAPID START.
- THMP no longer requires a client's lab values on the MCF.
- THMP has a relationship with Harbor Path that allows clients access to needed medications while they are waiting approval for ADAP.

Which medications does Harbor Path assist with?

- [Harbor Path](#) assists with supplying HIV medications for client's waiting to be approved for ADAP.
- Harbor Path no longer provides medications from Gilead.

Has an updated [Federal Poverty Level \(FPL\)](#) been approved?

- THMP has a memo being routed to approve a reduced increased FPL.
- The Program will not be changing the spend down until a new FPL is approved.
- The program is also attempting to receive approval to accept marketplace insurance plans (non-employer related).

Several organizations under my administrative agency say clients are being made to pay dispensing fees when they pick up medications. This isn't supposed to happen anymore, but the pharmacies say they haven't received an updated contract. Any advice?

- Clients are not supposed to paying dispensing fees.
- THMP will check to see if any pharmacies are operating under old contracts.