



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas**

Congenital Syphilis Health Advisory Alert

Reported syphilis and congenital syphilis (CS) cases are increasing nationally and in Texas. In 2018, there were 367 cases of CS reported in Texas, which includes confirmed and probable (suspected) cases, as well as syphilitic stillbirths.

A new state legislation was enacted September 1, 2019 to increase syphilis testing in pregnant women mandating testing:

- At first prenatal care examination
- During third trimester (no earlier than 28 weeks gestation)
- At delivery

As a Texas health care provider, you are urged to:

- Screen all pregnant women for syphilis according to new testing requirements.
- Look for clinical signs/symptoms of syphilis in all patients.
- Treat patients with evidence of syphilis or recent exposure to syphilis on-site when possible. Document stage of syphilis and treatment administered.
- Report syphilis cases to your local or regional health department at the time of diagnosis. Include pregnancy status and treatment in the report.
- Test and evaluate newborns potentially exposed to syphilis *in utero*.
- Update electronic health record/electronic medical record systems to reflect new testing requirements.

For additional information, refer to the Texas Health and Human Services - [Health Advisory Alert - Congenital Syphilis](#).