

EPSDT PROGRAM

Colorado's Medicaid Fee for Service program offers Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services to all Medicaid eligible children under the age of 21 who have current Medicaid eligibility. EPSDT is a preventative health care program with two purposes: to bring Medicaid children who are receiving little or no care into the medical mainstream; and to detect and correct health problems before they lead to serious, costly, handicapping conditions. The EPSDT program assesses the child's health needs through initial and periodic screening examinations and evaluations also known as well child checks for physicals. The goal of the program is to ensure that health problems are found, diagnosed and treated early. EPSDT screenings include at a minimum, the following:

- Comprehensive health and development history; including mental health history.
- Assessment of vision and hearing status.
- Assessment of dental conditions.
- Assessment of physical growth, emotional and developmental status including mental health status.
- Assessment of nutritional status.
- Assessment of cardiovascular and respiratory status.
- Assessment of immunization status.
- Screening tests for anemia, sickle cell trait, lead poisoning, tuberculosis, diabetes, and infectious conditions.

Treatment options may include:

- Dental care including cleanings and fillings
- Immunizations (shots)
- Hearing aids and hearing aid batteries
- Eyeglasses when needed
- Prescriptions, but not those which can be purchased over the counter (like vitamins)
- Lab tests
- Durable medical equipment such as oxygen, walkers or wheelchairs
- Augmentative communication devices
- Therapies such as Occupational (OT), Physical (PT) and Speech (ST)
- Other treatment services which might be found to be medically necessary for your child.

EPSDT CASE MANAGERS

Local communities have case managers that are responsible for providing case management services to children and youth who are receiving EPSDT services. The case managers ensure that EPSDT recipients receive the health services they are eligible for and help them overcome barriers to obtaining these services. The EPSDT case managers do not make decisions about health care. Their role includes:

- Educate all eligible Members about the EPSDT Program
- Describe the available benefits in greater detail.
- Help find a primary care physician or other medical providers as needed.
- Arrange for an appointment if the member needs help.
- Give options for transportation assistance if necessary.
- Follow-up on screening appointment. Follow-up includes assistance to reschedule the missed appointment.

To locate the EPSDT office serving your member, please call Health Care Policy and Financing at: (303) 866-6006 or (800) 221-3943, go to the web site <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/HCPF/HCPF/1218622604254>, or call the BHO Office of Member and Family Affairs.

EPSDT CARE PROVIDERS

Exams are performed by or under the supervision of a certified Medicaid physician, dentist or other provider who is qualified to provide medical services.

Options providers are required to:

- a. Assess new Members to determine that EPSDT screenings have been occurring.
- b. Refer Members to their PCP if screenings are not being conducted.
- c. Provide mental health assessment/treatment upon referral from a PCP who desires additional mental health services, in which medical necessity has been determined.
- d. Communicate with the PCP regarding any pertinent findings/actions.
- e. Document all actions in the Member's medical record.

Because assessing physical health is an important component of providing comprehensive mental health care, we suggest our providers ensure that their Medicaid Members under age 21 have had a yearly EPSDT well-child exam. Talk with the child's parent or guardian to determine if this has happened. If the child or youth has not been screened in the past year, you should contact the EPSDT case managers in your community.

GLOSSARY

EPSDT - (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) - Under Federal Medicaid rules, states are required to offer EPSDT services and Case Management to all Medicaid eligible children and youth from birth to 21 years. The goal is to identify and treat problems early to ensure Medicaid eligible children have a good start in life.

Case Management Services - Under the EPSDT program, case management services are the responsibility of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and are subcontracted to local agencies. EPSDT case managers have the responsibility to facilitate the EPSDT screening process, help families select a PCP if requested, give transportation options, do follow-up on screening appointments and arrange for diagnostic and treatment services. In most cases, the case managers do not provide the services but rather refer to those who are able to provide health care and other needed services within the community.