



Medicaid



Improving EPSDT services for members

Early and Periodic
Screening, Diagnosis and
Treatment (EPSDT)
screenings and special
services

What is EPSDT?

EPSDT is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21:

- **E**arly — identifying problems early, starting at birth
- **P**eriodic — checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
- **S**creening — doing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision and other screening tests to detect potential problems
- **D**iagnosis — performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified
- **T**reatment — treating the problems found

What is EPSDT? (cont.)

- Defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89) legislation
- Requires states to cover all services within the scope of the federal Medicaid program
- Includes periodic screening, vision, dental and hearing services among its requirements
- Requires (per Section 1905(r)(5) of the Social Security Act) that any medically necessary health care service listed in Section 1905(a) be provided to an EPSDT recipient even if the service is not available under the state's Medicaid plan to the rest of the Medicaid population

EPSDT screenings

- The EPSDT Screening Program provides routine physicals or well-child checkups for Medicaid-eligible children at certain specified ages. It is considered preventive care. Children are checked for medical problems early. Specific tests and treatments are recommended as children grow older.
- The areas of health care that are checked include: preventive checkups, growth and development assessments, vision, hearing, teeth, immunizations, and laboratory tests.

EPSDT screenings (cont.)

- Children should receive health checkups regularly or before the following ages: 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years, 8 years and once a year for ages 6 to 20.
- For more information, refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Periodicity Schedule found at: **www.aap.org** > Professional Resources > Practice Transformation > Managing Patients > Periodicity Schedule.
- Any Medicaid-eligible child is eligible for EPSDT services.

EPSDT special services

- Any Medicaid-eligible child may receive EPSDT special services as long as the services are medically necessary and not covered in another Medicaid program area.
- EPSDT special services may be preventive, diagnostic, treatment or rehabilitative.
- All EPSDT special services require prior authorization and approval from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid (Anthem).

EPSDT special services (cont.)

- Examples of services covered through the EPSDT special services include but are not limited to:
 - Additional pairs of eyeglasses after the Medicaid Vision Program has paid for the first two pairs in a year
 - Additional dental cleanings after the Medicaid Dental Program has paid for one cleaning
 - Nitrous oxide when used in dental treatment
 - Nutritional products when they are used as a supplement rather than as the child's total nutrition

EPSDT eligibility information

- EPSDT screenings and special services may only be provided to individuals under the age of 21.
- Services may be provided through the last day of the month in which the individual turns 21.
 - For example, if someone is receiving services through the EPSDT Special Services Program, and their 21st birthday is March 16, they may continue to receive services through the EPSDT Special Services Program through March 31 (if they are still eligible for Medicaid).

Who can provide EPSDT screenings and special services?

- Any qualified provider operating within the scope of his or her practice, as defined by state law, can conduct an EPSDT screening or provide EPSDT special services:
 - Physicians
 - Naturopathic physicians
 - Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs)
 - Physician assistants (PAs)
 - Medical residents



Who can provide EPSDT screenings and special services? (cont.)

- Registered nurses working under the guidance of a physician or ARNP may also perform EPSDT screenings.
 - However, only physicians, PAs and ARNPs can diagnose and treat problems found in a screening or provide EPSDT special services.

Why is it important?

- The focus is on early prevention and treatment.
- The program consists of two mutually supportive components:
 1. Assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources
 2. Helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use these resources



EPSDT member benefits

- Screening services
 - Comprehensive health and developmental history
 - Comprehensive unclothed physical exam
- Appropriate immunizations
- Laboratory tests
- Lead toxicity screening
- Health education
- Vision services
- Dental services
- Hearing services
- Other necessary health care

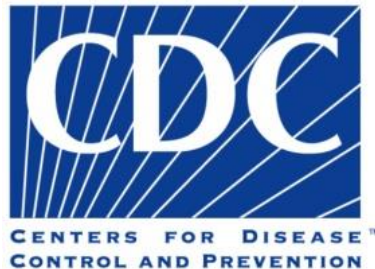


Immunization and periodicity schedules

- We recommend following established guidelines:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' immunization schedules:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip
 - AAP periodicity schedule:
www.aap.org > Professional Resources > Practice Transformation > Managing Patients > Periodicity Schedule

Immunization and periodicity schedules (cont.)

- More established guidelines:
 - American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD):
www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G_CariesRiskAssessmentChart.pdf
 - American Academy of Family Physicians:
www.aafp.org



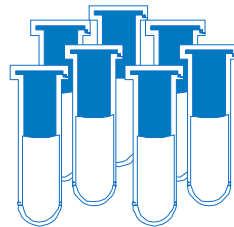
Required components of an EPSDT screening

- All well-child visits should include screenings for medical, mental health, vision, hearing and dental.
- There are five components to the medical screening:
 1. Comprehensive health and developmental history that assesses for both physical and mental health, as well as for substance use disorders; must include family and social history
 2. Comprehensive, unclothed physical examination; must include height, weight and BMI percentile plotted on a growth chart

(continued on next slide)

Required components of an EPSDT screening (cont.)

- Five components to the medical screening (cont.):
 3. Appropriate immunizations, in accordance with the schedule for pediatric vaccines
 4. Laboratory testing (including blood lead screening appropriate for age and risk factors)
 5. Health education and anticipatory guidance for both the child and caregiver



Additional EPSDT screening requirements

- Assessment and counseling for nutrition and physical activity
- Assessment and documentation of age-appropriate development (mental and physical) at each visit
- Documentation of specific anticipatory guidance and/or counseling provided to the member or member's family
- A depression screening
- Referrals for identified problems as necessary
- Tracking of any refused services by the member and/or parent or guardian

Treatment and follow-up care

- When a screening service indicates the need for further evaluation and diagnosis, a referral or treatment is required without delay.
- Evaluation, diagnosis and/or treatment may be provided at the time of the screening visit if the health care professional is qualified to provide the services.
- For services not covered by another type of Medicaid coverage, a prior authorization can be obtained for EPSDT special services.

Treatment and follow-up care (cont.)

- Follow-up care can be provided by:
 - PCPs (for example, family physicians or pediatricians)
 - Specialists (for example, neurologists, ophthalmologists and audiologists)
 - Other health professionals (for example, dentists, advanced practice nurses, psychologists and nutritionists)
 - Community agencies

Reporting EPSDT services

- Providers must bill Anthem using correct coding guidelines to ensure accurate reporting for EPSDT services.
- Providers are encouraged to submit information directly to the Kentucky Immunization Registry.
- Enroll in your state's Vaccines for Children program.



Addressing gaps in care

Member communications

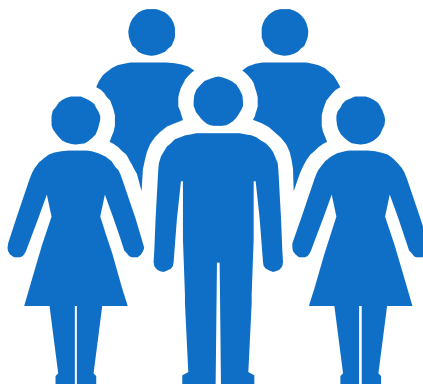
- Preventive health services reminder (annual birthday reminder)
- EPSDT overdue service reminder postcard

Provider communications

- You will receive an “EPSDT Timely Reporting of EPSDT Services” letter. This provider letter includes an overdue EPSDT services listing for members in your panel.
- If you need assistance with completing outreach to members with past due services, please contact the EPSDT Program Manager at the health plan.

EPSDT resources for providers

- In addition to resource materials available on the Anthem provider website, you are also welcome to schedule an onsite EPSDT training session for your facility.
- You may also request copies of the EPSDT toolkit that includes guidance on billing and services, assessment summaries for each age, and preventive care resources.



Contact us!

Please remember to contact us with any questions.

Also, it would be greatly appreciated if you could assist us with tracking your training by completing the *Training Verification Form* found on the Anthem provider website.

Please complete and fax the form to: **1-855-443-7820**.

Thank you

Thank you for completing the Anthem provider training program for improving EPSDT screening for members.

<https://mediproviders.anthem.com/ky>

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid is the trade name of Anthem Kentucky Managed Care Plan, Inc., independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

AKYPEC-1087-16 December 2016