



Iowa Care for Kids

What is Iowa Care for Kids?

Iowa Care for Kids is Iowa's Medicaid program for children under age 21. The goal of the program is to find and treat health problems early, and to support a healthy life for children. You may also hear the program called EPSDT. EPSDT stands for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program. Iowa Care for Kids covers screenings to make sure your child is healthy, tests for any concerning issues and medically necessary services to treat your child's conditions.

Here are some services and products that Iowa Care for Kids can cover:

- Medical care (in and out of the hospital)
- Prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Hearing care, including hearing aids
- Vision care, including glasses
- Speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy
- Help with mental and behavioral health, and substance abuse
- Personal care
- Nursing services
- Medical equipment

Is my child eligible for Iowa Care for Kids?

If your child has Iowa Medicaid and is younger than age 21, Iowa Care for Kids is included in their Medicaid benefits. Iowa Care for Kids is not included for children who have Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa health insurance (sometimes called [Hawki](#)).

What does Iowa Care for Kids do?

Iowa Care for Kids covers regular checkups (sometimes call well-child visits), including the following:

- A physical exam
- Monitoring your child's growth and development
- Screening for vision and hearing problems
- Checking the health of their teeth, applying fluoride to prevent cavities and helping you connect to dentist who sees children
- Immunizations (shots)
- Lab tests
- Advice about healthy living

You can also take your child to your health care provider any time your child is sick. If you think your child could have a physical, mental or developmental problem, take your child to their health care provider even if it is not time for a checkup.

If your child's health care provider finds a health problem during your visit, they will recommend next steps which might include tests, a prescription medication, referral to a specialist, therapist or other types of treatment or even going to a hospital. In some cases, the provider might need to send an explanation to your child's health plan about why it is medically necessary. This process is called **prior authorization**. It provides the health plan with detailed information to explain why the test, treatment or services is medically necessary for your child. To be medically necessary, a test, treatment or service needs to address your child's health problem and meet the standards of good medical practice. It doesn't need to cure your child's problem; it could be medically necessary if it makes the problem better, keeps it from getting worse or supports your child's quality of life. You will get a notice if the health plan decides the test, treatment or other service isn't medically necessary. You have the right to appeal the decision, and the notice will explain how. You can learn more about appeals on [HHS' website](#).

Can I get support accessing Iowa Care for Kids services?

If you need help finding a provider for your child or making an appointment, you can call the Healthy Families Line at 1-800-369-2229 or search online at the Iowa Health and Human Services' website.

If you need transportation to your appointment, you can find information on how to request a ride through Iowa's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program.

An Iowa Care for Kids coordinator can also help you with finding a provider, scheduling appointments, arranging an interpreter or getting transportation for your appointment. If you are an MCO member, you can reach an Iowa Care for Kids coordinator by contacting your MCO Member Services. If you have Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid, you should call the Healthy Families Line to be connected to your local Iowa Care for Kids coordinator.

For more detail on the Iowa Care for Kids program and its requirements, see the EPSDT section in Iowa Medicaid's pediatric provider manual.