

EPSDT OVERVIEW

Ensuring High Quality
Health Care



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Learning Objective

Understand the purpose and key components of Iowa's EPSTD program.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in full benefit Medicaid.

EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services.

- E** - Identifying problems **EARLY** starting at birth
- P** - Checking children's health status at **PERIODIC** age-appropriate intervals
- S** - Providing developmental, mental, physical, dental, hearing, vision, and other **SCREENING** tests to detect current and “risk” status
- D** - Using results of screening tests and other evaluations to **DIAGNOSE** the source of the concern
- T** - Devising and implementing a **TREATMENT** plan

Who is Eligible for EPSDT

- ▶ Enrolled in full benefit Medicaid program
- ▶ Under age 21
- ▶ Includes both medically needy and categorically needy eligibility groups
- ▶ Does not include Hawki

Requirements of State

- ▶ Inform all Medicaid-eligible individuals under age 21 that EPSDT services are available and of the need for immunizations
- ▶ Provide for the provision of screening services
- ▶ Provide for corrective treatment as determined by the screenings

Screening

- ▶ Comprehensive health and developmental history
- ▶ Comprehensive unclothed physical exam
- ▶ Appropriate immunizations (according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices)
- ▶ Laboratory tests including lead toxicity screening
- ▶ Health Education (anticipatory guidance including child development, healthy lifestyles, and accident and disease prevention)

Evaluation or Diagnosis

When a screening exam indicates the need for further evaluation of an individual's health, diagnosis services must be provided. Necessary referrals should be made without delay and there should be follow-up to ensure the child receives a complete diagnostic evaluation.

Treatment

Medically necessary health care services must be made available for treatment of all physical and mental illnesses or conditions discovered by any screening and diagnostic procedures

EPSDT Services

- ▶ States are required to provide any additional 1905(a) services that are coverable under the Federal Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary to treat, correct, or reduce illnesses and conditions discovered regardless of whether the service is covered in a state's Medicaid plan.
- ▶ It is the responsibility of states to determine medical necessity on a case-by-case basis.
- ▶ Services may include healthcare, vision, hearing, dental, mental health and substance use, personal care, case management, rehabilitative, and transportation.

EPSDT Services

- ▶ Depending on the interventions that the individual child needs and have been determined to be medically necessary; services that can be covered as rehabilitative services include:
 - ▶ Community-based crisis services, such as mobile crisis teams, and intensive outpatient services
 - ▶ Individualized mental health and substance use treatment services, including in non-traditional settings such as a school, a workplace or at home; Medication management
 - ▶ Counseling and therapy, including to eliminate psychological barriers that would impede development of community living skills
 - ▶ Rehabilitative equipment, for instance daily living aids
- ▶ Examples of other services that may be covered for children under Medicaid when medically necessary include, but are not limited to:
 - ▶ Case management services (including targeted case management)
 - ▶ Incontinence supplies
 - ▶ Organ transplants and any related services;
 - ▶ A specially adapted car seat that is needed by a child because of a medical problem or condition
 - ▶ Nutritional supplements

Permissible Limitations

- ▶ Services that fit within the scope of coverage under EPSDT must be provided to a child only if necessary to correct or ameliorate the individual child's physical or mental condition, i.e., only if "medically necessary."
- ▶ The determination of whether a service is medically necessary for an individual child must be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the particular needs of the child.

Permissible Limitations (Cont.)

- ▶ States may impose utilization controls to safeguard against unnecessary use of care and services. For example, a state may establish tentative limits on the amount of a treatment service a child can receive and require prior authorization for coverage of medically necessary services above those limits.
- ▶ EPSDT does not require coverage of treatments, services, or items that are experimental or investigational.

EPSDT and Waiver

- ▶ Children that have been assigned to a waiver also have access to EPSDT services.
- ▶ Waiver services may complement and/or supplement the services that are available through the Medicaid State plan.
- ▶ State plan services must be exhausted before accessing services through the waiver.

EPSDT and Waiver

- ▶ Through a waiver, a state may also furnish “extended state plan services” that exceed the limits that apply under the state plan.
- ▶ The waiver also offers Nursing, Home Health Aide, and attendant care to enable children to receive more than the current 16-hour limit on Private Duty Nursing and personal care services covered under the state plan today.

EPSDT Claims

- ▶ If a child has a service need that is not covered under Iowa Medicaid but is a 1905(a) services coverable under the Federal Medicaid program the child's provider may submit a Waiver of Administrative Rule.
 - The Waiver of Administrative Rule will be reviewed to determine if the service is medically necessary and meets the Federal guidelines for EPSDT coverage.

EPSDT Claims

- ▶ EPSDT claims should be submitted using the EP modifier to indicate that the services is covered under EPSDT.

Questions?

Resources

- ▶ [Iowa Medicaid EPSDT- Care for Kids](#)
- ▶ [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- ▶ [Federal Guidelines/Recommendations](#)
- ▶ [EPSDT- A Guide for States](#)