

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND THE EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

Any Child who is Medicaid eligible can access EPSDT. It provides a comprehensive set of preventive and health care services to individuals from **birth to 21 years of age**. EPSDT consists of two mutually supportive operation components.

1. The direct health care services delivered by Medicaid providers, and
2. The outreach activities that guide families to value and appropriately use health care services that lead to their health and well-being.

EPSDT Screen

The EPSDT screen helps to find any problems early so treatment can begin at once. Well-child care, including all shots, is important to a child's health. A child's primary physician will provide EPSDT screens for that child during routine office visits. Depending on the child's age, the EPSDT screen includes:

1. A complete health, nutritional, and developmental history
2. A head to toe physical exam
3. A growth and development check
4. Vision and hearing testing, dental and mental health screening
5. Urine and blood tests
6. Lead poisoning testing
7. Immunizations, as needed
8. Additional tests or exams as needed
9. **Consideration of, and referral for, assistive technology for communication, vision, hearing, mobility (upper and lower body), learning and cognition.**

Diagnosis and Treatment

Not all tests are given at every check-up. The child's age determines which parts of the check-up the child will receive. The check-ups have three main purposes:

1. Prevention
2. Detection
3. Early Treatment

The program focuses on prevention and diagnosing illness to find little problems before they become big problems. The most important feature of the EPSDT program is the requirement to treat *any* condition identified during an EPSDT screening that requires additional treatment



services, even if those services are not generally covered by Colorado's Medicaid program. Some examples of other required EPSDT services include:

1. Vision services, including diagnosis, treatment, eyeglasses
2. Dental services, including relief of pain and infections, restoration, maintenance
3. Hearing services including diagnosis, treatment, and hearing aids

EPSDT provides medically necessary items and services including assistive technology, when it meets medical criterion.

Referral

A referral from your doctor is necessary in order to see an approved Medicaid Specialist for additional medically necessary services, including an **assistive technology evaluation**.

Helpful Hints

During the EPSDT exam, the provider should note any concerns and make the further referrals. When a diagnosis is determined, a treatment plan is developed.

When a parent or guardian makes an appointment with the Medicaid provider, they should bring the following documentation to the provider's office:

1. All current insurance and Medicaid cards
2. Any current reports from doctors or therapists
3. A list of questions about the child's health

EPSDT services may require a prior authorization. PAR, or a Prior Authorization Request, is often needed for submission to Medicaid. This form should be completed by the provider and sent to Medicaid.

This form allows Medicaid to determine if the service is medically necessary and should be paid by Medicaid. A letter of medical necessity is always helpful and should accompany this form. A doctor, therapist or other medical provider can explain why the requested service is medically necessary. Medically necessary documentation should include the patient's name, date of birth, diagnosis, the medical need for the requested item, and concerns if the benefit or service is NOT authorized.

For more information, please contact:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/mch/epsdthom.asp>

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