

EPSDT care provider training guide

The Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program provides preventive and comprehensive health care services to members age 20 and younger who are enrolled in Medicaid. Missouri's EPSDT program is referred to as the Healthy Children and Youth (HCY) program.

EPSDT helps members use their benefits effectively and access the health care resources they need. Medicaid pays for any medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services for health issues discovered during an EPSDT exam.

What is EPSDT?

Early	Assessing and identifying health concerns, starting at birth
Periodic	Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
Screening	Physical, developmental, mental, dental, hearing, vision and other screening tests to detect potential concerns
Diagnostic	Performing follow-up diagnostic tests when health concerns are identified
Treatment	Correcting, controlling or reducing any identified health concerns

EPSDT health screening components

An EPSDT exam includes the following components:

- **Comprehensive history:** Health and development histories, including an assessment of social-emotional and behavioral concerns
- **Health education:** Anticipatory guidance that includes nutrition, healthy lifestyles, child development, and accident and disease prevention
- **Hearing screening:** According to parent reports or assessment through audiometry and tympanometry
- **Immunizations:** Appropriate immunizations as recommend by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- **Laboratory tests:** Age and health history appropriate, unless medically contraindicated
- **Lead screening:** According to established guidelines
- **Vision screening:** Observation for blinking, tracking, corneal light reflex, pupillary response, ocular movements. For members younger than age 3, use the Cover Test; for members older than 3, use the Snellen Vision Chart
- **Unclothed physical exam:** Growth chart, examination of skin, head (including ears, nose and throat), external genitals, extremities, chest, hips, heart, abdomen, feet and cover test

EPSDT lead screening

Because children ages 6 months to 6 years are at risk for lead poisoning, they **must** receive a lead risk assessment as part of a full or partial EPSDT/HCY screening. A comprehensive lead risk assessment includes both the verbal lead risk and blood lead level determinations. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires mandatory blood lead testing by either capillary or venous method at 12 and 24 months, regardless of risk. Results of the blood lead test must be in the patient's medical record even if the blood lead test was performed by someone other than the billing care provider.

EPSDT dental screening

Dental screenings are available to children from birth until age 21. Preventive dental services and oral treatment for children should begin between ages 6–12 months or upon eruption of the first tooth. Services should be repeated every 6 months or as indicated. A full EPSDT exam by a qualified medical professional should include an oral examination, which is not a full dental screen. Please refer members, age 1 and younger, to a dental provider, when indicated. Refer members, ages 1 and older, to a dental provider according to the dental periodicity schedule.

Questions? We're here to help

If you have questions about EPSDT, please contact your Provider Advocate. You can also find out more about EPSDT services in the MO HealthNet Physician Manual at manuals.momed.com/collections/collection_phy/print.pdf. Thank you.