

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) AND HEALTH CHECK

COMPLETE CHECK-UPS AND TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Health Check is the N.C. Medicaid program of **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment**. EPSDT services are covered free of charge. EPSDT covers:

- Regular medical check-ups. Check-ups prevent illness and find problems early.
- Dental services. Your child should go to the dentist every six months.
- Mental health services.
- Rehabilitative services for children with disabilities.
- In-home nursing, personal care, therapy, and medical equipment.
- Any other medical or remedial care needed to reduce your child's disability, improve or maintain his/her condition, or restore his/her functioning.

Who Qualifies: Medicaid recipients are eligible from birth through age 20.

How Often Will My Child Be Seen: With Health Check, your child should have regular screening (medical exams) as follows:

Within 1st month	9 or 15 months	3 years	9 years
2 months	12 months	4 years	12 years
4 months	18 months	5 years	15 years
6 months	2 years	6 years	18 years

The EPSDT medical screening exam should include:

- a health history and physical exam;
- check on developmental level and mental health;
- other tests, including tuberculosis and lead poisoning; and
- measuring height and weight;
- immunizations (shots);
- health education.

If your child needs to have exams on a different schedule, the visits are still covered.

What Treatment Services Will EPSDT Pay For:

EPSDT covers most of the treatments a child needs to stay as healthy as possible. This includes some services that Medicaid does not provide for adults. EPSDT services do not have many of the restrictions that the Community Alternatives Programs (CAP-waivers) have, such as waiting lists or upper limits on the total cost of treatment. The treatment services for each child will be determined by the child's individual needs. To be covered by Medicaid, many EPSDT services must be prescribed by your doctor or another licensed clinician. Prior approval from the N.C. Medicaid agency, the Division of Medical Assistance, may be needed for some treatment services. EPSDT can cover services that your child needs to correct a health problem, improve the problem, prevent it from getting worse, or help the child live with the problem. Even if the service won't cure your child's condition, it must be covered if the service is necessary to improve or maintain your child's functioning or symptoms.

If your child needs a specialized treatment, that treatment must be covered, so long as it is not experimental. If your child has a Medicaid card, and your doctor or other clinician says your child needs treatment, there is:

- no waiting list for EPSDT services,
- no upper limit on the number of hours necessary health care services are provided,
- no upper limit on the total cost of treatment,
- no limit on the number of visits to a doctor or therapist,

- no requirement that the service or equipment your child needs has to be on our usual list of covered services,
- coverage for services that are never covered for adults, and
- no copayment or other cost to you,
- coverage for services not listed in the N.C. Medicaid State Plan.

Following is a list of some of the services that can be covered by EPSDT if needed to correct or ameliorate a child's health problem:

- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Family planning (birth control), including sexually transmitted disease screening
- Vision screening and eye glasses
- Home health care services
- Private duty nursing services
- Prescribed and over-the-counter drugs
- Durable medical equipment, including wheelchairs and assistive devices
- Medical or remedial services recommended for the maximum reduction of physical or mental disability and restoration of an individual to the best possible functional level (rehabilitation)
- Inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21
- Respiratory care
- Substance abuse services
- Laboratory and x-ray services
- Physician services (including pediatricians and pediatric specialists)
- Hearing testing and hearing aide(s)
- Therapy services—physical, occupational, and speech/language
- Clinic services (including rural health clinics)
- Dental care, including preventive and restorative care
- Case management
- Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded
- Maternity care
- Personal care services
- Transportation services

For more information about EPSDT Treatment Services, visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/prov.htm>

How Do I Get These Services For My Child: You can ask for Health Check or EPSDT services by contacting your child's doctor, your local Mental Health Authority, or any health care provider who accepts Medicaid. Health Check can also help with:

- Getting transportation
- Setting up appointment
- Finding a doctor or dentist

You or your health care provider can also request EPSDT services by writing directly to the agencies identified below.

FOR DENTAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES, WRITE TO:

Director
 c/o Assistant Director for Clinical Policy and Programs
 Division of Medical Assistance
 2501 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-2501

For MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE (MH/DD/SAS) SERVICES, WRITE TO:

Director
 N.C. Division of MH/DD/SAS
 3001 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-3001