



Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children and youth ages 20 and under, or all pregnant women, who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and youth receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services.

Early	Assessing and identifying problems early
Periodic	Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
Screening	Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems
Diagnosis	Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
Treatment	Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

EPSDT Services

EPSDT is made up of the following screening, diagnostic, and treatment services:

Screening Services

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

Vision Services

- At a minimum, diagnosis and treatment for defects in vision, including eyeglasses.

Dental Services

- At a minimum, dental services include relief of pain and infections, restoration of teeth, and maintenance of dental health, including examinations, cleanings, and fluoride treatments.

Hearing Services

- At a minimum, diagnosis and treatment for defects in hearing, including hearing aids.

Other Necessary Health Care Services

- Additional health care 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.

Diagnostic Services

- Necessary referrals for diagnostic services should be made without delay

Treatment

- 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.

Colorado also provides through Healthy Communities and other programs

- Information to all Medicaid-eligible individuals under age 20 and under, or who are pregnant, that EPSDT services are available and of the need for age-appropriate immunizations;
- Provide or arrange for the provision of screening services for all children;
- Arrange (directly or through referral) for corrective treatment as determined by child health screenings; and
- Refer for transportation assistance.

Lead Screening

Lead screening is a requirement for all Medicaid eligible children at 12 and 24 months or between the ages of 36 and 72 months if not previously tested.

Medical Necessity

All Medicaid coverable, medically necessary, services must be provided even if the service is not available under the State plan to other Medicaid eligibles

- Section 1905(r)(5) – medically necessary services coverable under 1905(a)

Colorado makes the final determine medical necessity and it is determined on a case-by-case basis. Provider recommendations will be taken in to consideration, but are not the sole determining factor in coverage.

No arbitrary limitations on services are allowed, e.g., one pair of eyeglasses or 10 PT visits per year. Additional services above what is covered in State plan must be allowed; when medically necessary (still must be Medicaid coverable) and Colorado determines which treatment it will cover among equally effective, actually available alternative treatments

EPSDT Medical Necessity Does NOT include:

- Experimental/Investigational Treatments
- Services or items not generally accepted as effective or not within the normal course and duration of treatment or without clinical guidelines
- Services solely for caregiver or providers convenience

EPSDT and Managed Care

- All EPSDT requirements must be adhered to for individuals who receive services under managed care arrangements.
- Colorado is responsible for medically necessary services not included in the managed care contract.



Colorado is required to report specific matrix to the federal government on the EPSDT CMS-416 which include but are not limited to:

- The number of children provided child health screening services;
- The number of children referred for corrective treatment;
- The number of children receiving dental services, broken down by type of service and type of provider; and
- The State's results in attaining the participation goals set for the States under section 1905(r)

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