

## EPSDT and Title V Collaboration to Improve Child Health

### EPSDT Requirements

EPSDT is a mandatory set of services and benefits for all individuals under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. Think of it as the child health coverage package of Medicaid. [View Medicaid State Manual Part 5 EPSDT](#)

Screening services "to detect physical and mental conditions must be covered at established, periodic intervals (periodic screens) and whenever a problem is suspected (inter-periodic screens). [View CMS description](#)

Screening includes a comprehensive health and developmental history, an unclothed physical exam, appropriate immunizations, laboratory tests, and health education.

- [Federal EPSDT Coverage Policy Report](#)

In addition, dental, vision, and hearing services are required, including appropriate screening, diagnostic, and treatment. The treatment component of EPSDT is broadly defined. Federal law states that treatment must include any "necessary health care, diagnostic services, treatment, and other measures" that fall within the federal definition of medical assistance (as described in Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act that are needed to "correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the screening services."

All [medically necessary](#) diagnostic and treatment services within the federal definition of Medicaid medical assistance must be covered, regardless of whether or not such services are otherwise covered under the state Medicaid plan for adults ages 21 and older.

EPSDT is designed to help ensure access to needed services, including assistance in scheduling appointments and transportation assistance to keep appointments. As described in federal program rules: The EPSDT program consists of two, mutually supportive, operational components:

1. assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources; and
2. helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use them." [View CMS description](#)