

What is EPSDT?

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is part of the federal Medicaid law that requires each state to provide medically necessary services to children under 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid.

EPSDT’s Purpose: *“The goal of EPSDT is to assure that individual children get the health care they need when they need it—the right care to the right child at the right time in the right setting.”ⁱ*

What does EPSDT mean?

Early and Periodic	Providers assess and identify problems early! They check children’s health at set target points for each age.
Screening	Providers check for dental, hearing, vision, developmental, physical, and mental health risks or problems.
Diagnostic	If a risk or problem is found in screening, the child should receive testing to identify the cause or to diagnose a condition.
Treatment	Medically necessary health care services must be provided for treatment of all conditions discovered by any screening or diagnostic procedures.

Do I have EPSDT in my state?

Yes! Sometimes it is called by a different name or acronym, but what it requires for each child is the same. (See list on page 2.)

How do I use EPSDT? Do I have to sign up for it?

No need to sign up. If your child has Medicaid, then they have EPSDT.

Does my child’s doctor know about EPSDT?

Yes. But many families, doctors, and other health care professionals are just not sure how it works. For example, some say that EPSDT only helps with screening, but it is so much more! Think of each of the letters in EPSDT as key points along a map to your child’s growth, happiness, and health. EPSDT can cover the journey of screening, testing, and treatment. If you think there may be a problem, talk to your child’s doctor about EPSDT.

Sometimes an order for a test is denied by Medicaid. Under EPSDT, if you and your child’s doctor have moved along the points in the EPSDT map from screening, for vision for example, to a need for a special vision diagnosis, it must be covered - and promptly because early identification is the goal and duty of each state.

Isn’t this just health care? What makes EPSDT different?

Within each state’s Medicaid agency there are many plans and programs. EPSDT requires each state cover all screens, tests, and treatment – even if that service is not covered in one of the state plans or programs. Like an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) used in schools, states must look at each individual child’s medical needs to decide their treatment.

ⁱCMS, EPSDT – A Guide for States: Coverage in the Medicaid Benefit for Children and Adolescents 1 (2014), https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/epsdt_coverage_guide.pdf

State EPSDT Program Names:

State	Name of EPSDT Program
Alabama	Well Child Check-Up
Alaska	Well Child
Arizona	EPSDT
Arkansas	EPSDT
California	Medi-Cal EPSDT
Colorado	EPSDT
Connecticut	EPSDT
Delaware	EPSDT
District of Columbia	Healthcheck
Florida	EPSDT
Georgia	EPSDT
Hawaii	EPSDT
Idaho	EPSDT
Illinois	Healthy Kids
Indiana	EPSDT/Health Watch
Iowa	EPSDT Care for Kids
Kansas	Kan-Be-Healthy
Kentucky	EPSDT
Louisiana	EPSDT
Maine	EPSDT
Maryland	Healthy Kids/EPSDT
Massachusetts	EPSDT
Michigan	EPSDT
Minnesota	Child and Teen Checkups
Mississippi	EPSDT
Missouri	Healthy Children and Youth

State	Name of EPSDT Program
Montana	EPSDT
Nebraska	Health Check
Nevada	Healthy Kids
New Hampshire	EPSDT
New Jersey	EPSDT
New Mexico	EPSDT
New York	Child/Teen Health Program
North Carolina	Health Check
North Dakota	Health Tracks
Ohio	Health Check
Oklahoma	Child Health/ EPSDT
Oregon	EPSDT
Pennsylvania	EPSDT
Rhode Island	EPSDT
South Carolina	EPSDT
South Dakota	EPSDT
Tennessee	TennCare Kids
Texas	Texas Health Steps
Utah	EPSDT
Vermont	EPSDT
Virginia	EPSDT
Washington	EPSDT/Well-Child Exams
West Virginia	HealthCheck
Wisconsin	HealthCheck
Wyoming	EPSDT HealthCheck