

# **Children's Medicaid Benefits in Colorado**



**Understanding the Early  
and Periodic Screening  
Diagnosis and Treatment  
(EPSDT) program**

The **E**arly and **P**eriodic **S**creening **D**iagnosis and **T**reatment program is a special health care program within Medicaid for children age 20 and under.



It helps families find out early about health care problems and get treatment for medical, dental, vision, mental health and developmental problems. All families who get Medicaid are encouraged to use these services.

- Children 18 and under will never have a co-pay for any covered service.
- Adults 19 and over may have to pay a small co-pay when visiting their doctor, pharmacy or for hospital stays.



- Adults 19 and over who are enrolled in a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO), will not have a co-pay.
- Pregnant women of any age will not have a co-pay during the pregnancy.

## EPSDT OUTREACH AND CASE MANAGEMENT

You can get EPSDT Outreach and Case Management services for free if you are pregnant or have children who are age 20 and under.

Outreach Coordinators want you to get the most out of your benefits. They can help you by:

- Finding available Medicaid providers
- Assisting in working with the medical system
- Connecting you to available no and low cost services and referrals to places in your community like food banks, housing agencies, childcare, Head Start and WIC offices.

EPSDT Outreach Coordinators can act as a link with other programs and services and will be available as the first level of client advocacy. To contact your EPSDT Outreach Coordinator, please call:



Outreach Coordinators cannot determine or approve Medicaid or food stamp eligibility, cannot issue Medicaid or food stamp cards or assist with TANF or cash assistance programs. For those services, please call your local department of human or social services.

## Your child's Medicaid benefits include:

- Overall health evaluation (Unclothed check up)
- Developmental evaluation (How a child should develop and what they might need in the coming months)
- Behavior review (Is your child sleeping, how is his/her behavior and mood)
- Vision testing
- Immunizations (shots)
- Hearing tests
- Check up of the mouth and teeth
- Talk about eating habits and diet
- Check heart and lungs
- Blood and urine tests that are right for the child's age



- Family planning or abstinence information

A referral from your physician is **not** needed to see a dentist, eye doctor, a Medicaid mental or behavioral health provider, hearing services or to get family planning services.

## Early and Periodic Screening

Your child's growth should be checked at set times to stop health problems or mental health issues. Finding health care problems as early as possible can help stop it from getting worse.

Your child also needs immunizations (shots).



Shots protect your child from many serious diseases. When children have all their shots, there is less disease in the community. They cannot spread to other people, and this means children will not miss school and parents will not miss work. Your child's shots will also need to be up to date to go to day care or school.

A check up and shot schedule is below, or ask your health care provider about when your child should get these important shots. Ask also your provider if your child needs more shots, like a flu shot. Your child should have a check up and shots at:

- ✓ 1 month
- ✓ 2 months plus shots
- ✓ 4 months plus shots
- ✓ 6 months plus shots
- ✓ 9 months
- ✓ 12 months plus shots
- ✓ 15 months plus shots
- ✓ 18 months
- ✓ And once a year from age 2 through 20



## Lead Poisoning

When lead enters a child's body, it can have very serious effects. Lead poisoning is one of the most serious health problems a child may face, but it can be prevented. Those at greatest risk for the harmful effects of lead poisoning are small children, birth to age 6.

Even low levels of lead are harmful and are linked to:

- Speech and language delays
- Short attention span
- Hearing problems
- Learning problems
- Slowed development
- Poor muscle coordination

One blood test can tell you if your child has lead poisoning. Testing should be done at:

- ✓ 12 months and 24 months
- ✓ 36 months to 72 months if not tested in the past

Facts:

- Lead mostly affects children 6 months old to 6 years old
- Most children who have lead poisoning do not have symptoms
- Imported toys and candy could contain lead
- Ceramic pots/dishes made in Mexico, Portugal, Italy may contain lead
- Home remedies such as Greta and Azarcon contain lead

## Diagnosis

Finding out your child has a problem or illness is called a diagnosis. If there is a health care problem diagnosed during any health screening, your child has a right to more visits and treatment for this problem.

Your child's Medicaid benefits include:

- Doctor visits including specialists
- Diagnostic services such as EKG's
- Lab tests such as blood, skin, urine or pap smears
- Radiology services such as x-rays
- Audiological exams such as hearing tests
- Pregnancy tests
- Hospitalizations
- Orthodontic assessments for braces for a child's teeth
- Mental health check-ups



## Treatment

Children should receive treatment to correct or improve health care problems due to a physical or mental health illnesses that are found when seeing a doctor. Medically necessary health care is covered by Medicaid, and includes procedures, services, devices and prescriptions (drugs).

## Children With Special Health Care Needs

If a child has a long-term health care problem, developmental delay or lifetime disability, the EPSDT program is very important.

Not only do the regular check-ups help your child's overall health and functioning, but children with special health care needs often need additional or special services and supports. You can get things such as home health services, special adaptive equipment, specialty evaluations and therapies through the EPSDT program.

Some of these services or items will require a **P**rior **A**uthorization **R**quest or PAR. A PAR must be signed by your Primary Care Physician (PCP) and sent to Medicaid. Medicaid needs to approve these services and items before your child can get them.



After getting the PAR, Medicaid will determine if the request is medically necessary\* and if payment will be made for the service or item. You will get a notice of action in the mail to your address. This notice will tell you if your service or item will be approved or denied.

- If the PAR is APPROVED, call the provider listed to get the service/item.
- If the PAR is DENIED and you think it is wrong, you have 20 days from the date on the letter to file an appeal. If you need help, call your EPSDT Outreach Coordinator for help.

\*Medicaid covers services and items that are medically necessary. Medicaid looks at each service or item and decides if it is:

- Standard medical practice
- Right for the problem
- Given as often as necessary and for how long it is needed
- Not for the convenience of the parent, guardian or health care provider



## Your child can get services and items that include:

- Eyeglasses
- Therapies such as Occupational, Physical and Speech
- Medications (drugs)
- Orthodontia, special conditions
- Assistive technology
- Augmentative communication devices
- Bath equipment such as a bench
- Durable medical equipment
- Extended care facilities
- Feeding supplies
- Hearing aids and the batteries needed for them
- Hospital beds
- In-patient hospitalization
- Orthotics such as splints
- Outpatient mental health
- Oxygen and equipment
- Prenatal care and nurse-midwife services
- Prosthetics
- Residential treatment
- Therapy and treatment
- Psychiatric care and medication monitoring
- Rehabilitation facilities care
- Suctioning equipment
- Surgery
- Tracheotomy and laryngectomy equipment and supplies



## Medical Home

A Medical Home is a way that your child can get ongoing, coordinated, comprehensive care from a provider or medical team familiar with your child's health and will work within the priorities of your family. Your Medical Home will help you get the medical and non-medical services you need.

If you want to know how to work with your provider, please contact your EPSDT Outreach Coordinator to help.

## Other Important Phone Numbers:

**EPSDT Outreach Coordinators:** For assistance with your child's medical benefits, please contact the EPSDT Coordinator closest to you. Having trouble finding the EPSDT Outreach Coordinator in your area? Call:

**Denver Metro (303) 866-6167**  
**Toll free 1-800-221-3943**



**Medicaid Customer Service:** If you are an adult, or you need help finding Medicaid providers or services, are getting health care bills or have other questions about your health care, please call Medicaid Customer Service at:

**Denver Metro (303) 866-3513 or**  
**Toll free 1-800-221-3943**  
**TDD, Metro Area: (303) 866-3883**  
Se habla Espanol

## **Ombudsman for Medicaid Managed Care:**

The Ombudsman can help you solve problems with your health care (both physical and mental). Call the Ombudsman to solve problems with the quality of care you or your family is getting, to help file grievances and appeals, and to help you to exercise your health care rights. Please call:

**Denver Metro Area: (303) 830-3560 or**

**Toll Free: 1-877-435-7123**

Se habla Espanol

**HealthColorado:** To enroll or change health plans or your Primary Care Physician (Doctor), please call HealthColorado at:

**Denver Metro Area: (303) 839-2120 or**

**Outside Denver Metro area, Toll Free:**

**1-888-367-6557**

Se habla Espanol

**Nurse Advice Line:** When you are sick or hurt and cannot ask your health care provider, you can call the Nurse Advice Line. They will ask you questions about your problems and help you decide what to do, tell you what can be done at home to make you feel better and can call you back to see how you are feeling. It is free and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call them at:

**1-800-283-3221**

**from anywhere in the state of Colorado**

Se habla Espanol

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(modified 12.08)