

What Are “EPSDT” Services

The benefit covers any medical treatment or procedure listed within *Social Security Act § 1905(a)* decided by an EPSDT standard of review to be medically necessary to ‘**correct or ameliorate**’ defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions’.

These services are coverable when an individual medical review per **federal EPSDT criteria** establishes medical necessity for them, regardless of their coverage status by a state Medicaid plan.

EPSDT services feature both routine preventive/diagnostic services and treatment.

Early and Periodic Screens (Preventive healthcare visits)

Preventive health visits are provided at intervals recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP “**Bright Futures**” Publication). Early Periodic Screens include the following **federally required** components:

- Comprehensive health history and physical exam.
- Surveillance/screening for developmental and behavioral health problems.
- All recommended (ACIP) immunizations.
- Vision, hearing and dental health screenings.
- Routine and medically necessary lab testing.
- Health education and anticipatory guidance to family.
- Referral for any suspected or diagnosed health conditions.

Comprehensive Treatment Services:

When determined to be medically necessary by an EPSDT review, children may receive a broad palette of medical services, as defined by categories listed within *§1905 (a)* of the *Social Security Act*.

- A service **not on the state benefit plan** but included in the federal menu of services is available to children when prior approved per EPSDT criteria;
- A service provided at levels, amounts, frequencies or durations **exceeding state policy limits** is available when prior approved per EPSDT criteria;
- A service approved per EPSDT criteria by **overriding strict eligibility or clinical criteria** written in state policy.

No service for a child may be denied, reduced or terminated before it is reviewed per EPSDT criteria.