

**NC Division of Medical Assistance  
Outpatient Pharmacy  
Prior Approval Criteria  
Evrysdi**

**Medicaid and Health Choice  
Effective Date: April 14, 2021**

**Therapeutic Class Code:** Z1T

**Therapeutic Class Description:** GENETIC D/O TX - SMN PROTEIN DEFICIENCY  
TREATMENT

Medication
Evrysdi

**Eligible Beneficiaries**

NC Medicaid (Medicaid) beneficiaries shall be enrolled on the date of service and may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

NC Health Choice (NCHC) beneficiaries, ages 6 through 18 years of age, shall be enrolled on the date of service to be eligible, and must meet policy coverage criteria, unless otherwise specified. **EPSDT does not apply to NCHC beneficiaries.**

**EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age**

**42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed clinician). This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his/her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems. Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product, or procedure

- a. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental/investigational.
- b. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and/or other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

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**EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements**

If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

***NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:***

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

***EPSDT provider page:*** <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/find-programs-and-services-right-you/medicaid-benefit-children-and-adolescents>

**Health Choice Special Provision: Exceptions to Policy Limitations for Health Choice Beneficiaries ages 6 through 18 years of age**

**EPSDT does not apply to NCHC beneficiaries.** If a NCHC beneficiary does not meet the clinical coverage criteria within the **Outpatient Pharmacy prior approval** clinical coverage criteria, the NCHC beneficiary shall be denied services. Only services included under the Health Choice State Plan and the NC Medicaid clinical coverage policies, service definitions, or billing codes shall be covered for NCHC beneficiaries.

**Criteria for Initial Coverage of Evrysdi:**

- Patient  $\geq$  2 months of age;  
AND
- Patient has a diagnosis of 5q-autosomal recessive spinal muscular atrophy (SMA);  
AND
- Patient must have SMA phenotype 1, 2 or 3;  
AND
- Must not be used concomitantly with nusinersen (Spinraza) or onasemnogene abeparvovec-xioi (Zolgensma);  
AND
- Prescribed by or in consultation with a neurologist  
AND
- Initial approval shall be for up to 12 months.

**Criteria for Continuation of Coverage of Evrysdi:**

- Patient continues to meet the above initial criteria;  
AND
- Absence of unacceptable toxicity or treatment related adverse event from the drug;  
AND

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- Patient has clinically meaningful response to treatment as demonstrated by at least 1 of the following:
  - Stability or improvement in net motor function/milestones, including but not limited to, the following validated scales: Hammersmith Infant Neurologic Exam (HINE), Hammersmith Functional Motor Scale Expanded (HFMSE), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Infant Test of Neuromuscular Disorders (CHOP INTEND), Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler development Third Ed. (BSID-III), 6-minute walk test (6MWT), Upper Limb Module (ULM), Motor Function Measure-32 (MFM-32), Revised Upper Limb Module (RULM) etc.
  - Stability or improvement in respiratory function tests [e.g., forced vital capacity (FVC), etc.
  - Reduction in exacerbations necessitating hospitalization and/or antibiotic therapy for respiratory infection in the preceding year/timeframe
  - Stable or increased patient weight (for patients without a gastrostomy tube)
  - Slowed rate of decline in the aforementioned measures
- Continuation approvals shall be for up to 12 months

**References**

1. Evrysdi [package insert]. San Francisco, CA; Genentech; August 2020.

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**Criteria Change Log**

04/14/2021	Criteria effective date