

EPSDT's Review for Medical Necessity

Decisions on medical necessity of a treatment, product or service requested a provider for Medicaid children are based on conformity with federal EPSDT criteria. Medical necessity for a service is decided based on an individualized clinical review of medical status and support for effectiveness of the requested treatment found in:

- *Traditional evidence* (patient-centered or scientific evidence for children) *grading* with a hierarchy or algorithm of standards applied.
- In the absence of availability of traditional evidence or algorithms, *professional standards of care* for children must be considered.
- The AAP, other pediatric medical specialty societies, and *consensus expert pediatric opinion* could serve as references for defining essential pediatric care in the context of medically necessary services

An appropriately licensed professional or panel and credentialed must:

- Review the individual needs of the child as submitted in the request with reference to each element of the *ESPDT criteria* and all applicable law, policy and standards of best practice;
- Research best practice, peer reviewed journals and find support in data for *effectiveness of requested service in the individual case* as presented in the request, allowing case-based exceptions to those guidelines and policies as required by EPSDT standard;