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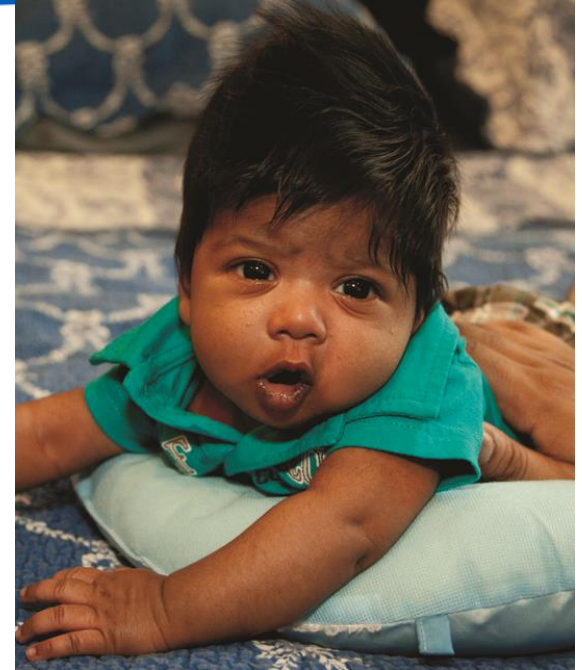
# Improving EPSDT screening for members

Education for Primary Care Providers

# What is EPSDT?

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21.**

- **Early** - Identifying problems early, starting at birth
- **Periodic** - Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
- **Screening** - Doing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision and other screening tests to detect potential problems
- **Diagnosis** - Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified
- **Treatment** - Treating the problems found



Note: In markets where CHIP benefits are offered, age requirement may vary.



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# What is EPSDT?

(continued)

Defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89) legislation

Requires states to cover all services within the scope of the federal Medicaid program

Includes periodic screening, vision, dental and hearing services among its requirements

Requires (per Section 1905(r)(5) of the Social Security Act) that any medically necessary health care service listed in Section 1905(a) be provided to an EPSDT recipient even if the service is not available under the state's Medicaid plan to the rest of the Medicaid population

# Our State Partners' Programs

New Jersey	EPSDT	Tennessee	TennCare Kids
New York	Child Teen Health Program (CTHP)	Florida	Child Health Check-Up (CHCUP)
Wisconsin	Health Check	Louisiana	EPSDT
Maryland	Healthy Kids	Texas	Texas Health Steps
Virginia	EPSDT	Kentucky	EPSDT
Georgia	Health Check	Nevada	Healthy Kids
Washington	EPSDT	Kansas	KAN Be Healthy

# Why is it important?

**Focus attention on early prevention and treatment**

**The program consists of two mutually supportive components:**

1. Assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources
2. Helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use these resources

# EPSDT Benefits

- Screening services
  - Comprehensive health and developmental history
  - Comprehensive unclothed physical exam
- Appropriate immunizations
- Laboratory tests
- Lead toxicity screening
- Health education
- Vision services
- Dental services
- Hearing services
- Other necessary health care

# Immunization and Periodicity Schedules

We recommend following established guidelines:



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices immunization schedules
- [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html)



- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) periodicity schedule
- [brightfutures.aap.org/clinical\\_practice.html](http://brightfutures.aap.org/clinical_practice.html)



- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)
- [www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/G\\_CariesRiskAssessmentChart.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G_CariesRiskAssessmentChart.pdf)



- American Academy of Family Physicians
- [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)



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# Treatment and Follow-Up

When a screening service indicates the need for further evaluation and diagnosis, a referral or treatment is required without delay

Evaluation, diagnosis and/or treatment may be provided at the time of the screening visit if the health care professional is qualified to provide the services

Follow-up care can be provided by:

- Primary care providers (e.g., family physicians or pediatricians)
- Specialists (e.g., neurologists, ophthalmologists and audiologists)
- Other health professionals (e.g., dentists, advanced practice nurses, psychologists and nutritionists)
- Community agencies





# How to Report EPSDT Services

Providers must bill Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) using correct coding guidelines to ensure accurate reporting for EPSDT services.

Some states require providers to submit information directly to the state's immunization registries.

Enroll in your state's Vaccines for Children program.

Empire regularly exchanges data with state immunization registries and lead registries where applicable.



# Empire Outreach Program

Preventive health services reminder  
(annual birthday reminder)

EPSDT overdue service reminder postcard

Provider letters/overdue EPSDT service  
listing for members

# Resources for Providers

Provider manual/handbook

EPSDT provider toolkit

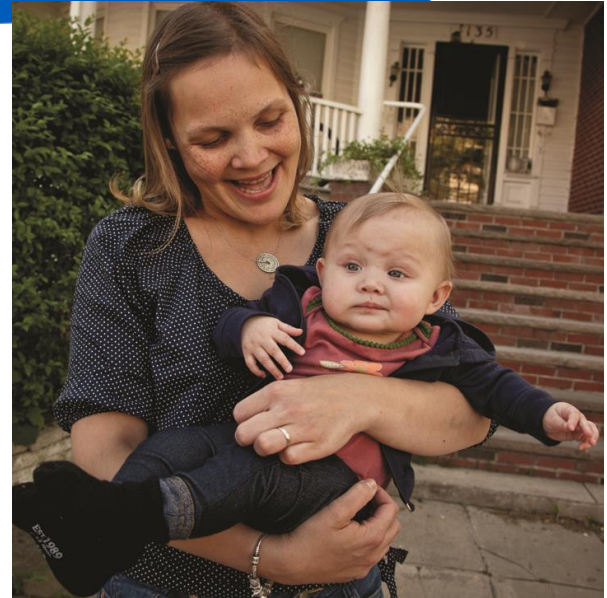
- Not available in all markets
- Distributed to primary care providers and posted on our provider website
- Includes:
  - Guide to services and billing
  - Assessment summary
  - Preventive care resources

# Next Steps

Review your provider manual/handbook and EPSDT provider toolkit if available

Call Provider Services at 1-800-450-8753 or your local Provider Relations representative if you have questions

Complete and submit the Training Verification Form



# Thank you

Thank you for completing the Empire provider training program for improving EPSDT screening for members.



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[www.empireblue.com/nymedicaidoc](http://www.empireblue.com/nymedicaidoc)

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