

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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HEALTHY CHILDREN AND YOUTH (HCY)/EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) PROGRAM

Applies to: Providers of EPSDT Services

Effective: Immediately

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HCY/EPSDT PROGRAM

The Healthy Children and Youth (HCY) Program in Missouri is a comprehensive, primary and preventive health care program for MO HealthNet eligible children and youth under the age of 21 years. The program is also known as the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program. The EPSDT benefit is designed to assure that children receive early detection and care, so health problems are averted or diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The goal of EPSDT is to assure that individual children get the health care they need when they need it. States are required to provide any additional health care services that are coverable under the Federal Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary to treat, correct or reduce illnesses and conditions discovered regardless of whether the service is covered in a state's Medicaid plan.

SCREENING SERVICES

EPSDT covers regular screening services for infants, children and adolescents. These screenings are designed to identify health and developmental issues as early as possible.

Effective immediately, the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) requires that providers follow the Bright Futures/ American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Periodicity Schedule, which is available at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-transformation/managing-patients/Pages/Periodicity-Schedule.aspx>. Bright Futures is a national health promotion and

prevention initiative, led by the AAP and supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Information about Bright Futures screening services can be found on their website at: <https://brightfutures.aap.org/clinical-practice/Pages/default.aspx>. If a child is behind at any point on the schedule, or if any items are not accomplished at the suggested age, the schedule should be brought up-to-date at the earliest possible time. Children and youth may be screened at any time the provider feels it is medically necessary to provide additional screening services.

Vision, dental and hearing services are an essential component of the EPSDT benefit and must be provided at intervals that meet reasonable standards of medical practice.

Section 9.5 of the HCY/EPSDT Manual states a full screen must include the following:

- A comprehensive unclothed physical examination;
- A comprehensive health and developmental history including assessment of both physical and mental health developments;
- Health education (including anticipatory guidance);
- Appropriate immunizations according to age;
- Laboratory tests as indicated (appropriate according to age and health history unless medically contraindicated);*
- Lead screening according to established guidelines;
- Hearing screening;
- Vision screening; and
- Dental screening.

Segments of the full medical screen may be provided by different providers. The purpose of this is to increase the access to care for all children and to allow providers reimbursement for those separate screens. When expanded EPSDT services are accessed through a partial or interperiodic screen, it is the responsibility of the provider completing the partial or interperiodic screening service to have a referral source to send the child for the remaining components of a full screening service.

The Importance of Developmental and Behavioral Screening. Periodic developmental and behavioral screening during early childhood is essential to identify possible delays in growth and development, when steps to address deficits can be most effective. The MHD encourages providers to use age appropriate, validated screening tools rather than less rigorous methods to screen for developmental and behavioral health conditions. The Screening Technical Assistance & Resource (STAR) Center of the AAP provides a list of validated screening tools for children 0 to 5 years that address the following areas:

- Development
- Autism
- Social-emotional development
- Maternal depression
- Social determinants of health

The STAR Center list may be accessed at <https://screeningtime.org/star-center/#/screening-tools#top>. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) also includes links to validated screening tools in its published recommendations by each type of screening, which can be found at https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/topic_search_results?topic_status=P.

Maternal depression is a serious and widespread condition that not only affects the mother, but may have a lasting, detrimental impact on the child's health. As a reminder, MHD covers procedure code 96161, which may be billed under the child's DCN, for administering a maternal depression screening tool during a well-child visit.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

EPSTD covers medically necessary diagnostic services. When a screening indicates the need for further evaluation of a child's health, the child should be appropriately referred for diagnosis without delay.

TREATMENT

Necessary health care services must be made available for treatment of all physical and behavioral conditions discovered by any screening and diagnostic procedures. States are required to provide any additional health care services that are coverable under the Federal Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary to treat, correct or reduce illnesses and conditions discovered regardless of whether the service is covered in a state's Medicaid plan.

HCY SCREENING GUIDES

The MO HealthNet HCY screening guides will no longer be required. Providers must document the screenings in accordance with the Bright Futures schedule and may do so in an electronic medical record (EMR). Providers may link to the Bright Futures periodicity schedule without permission, but AAP requires permission and charges a fee if providers wish to make copies or to incorporate the forms into their EMRs. There is more information about licensing at: <https://brightfutures.aap.org/materials-and-tools/tool-and-resource-kit/Pages/default.aspx>.

APPLICABILITY

Managed Care enrolled providers should contact their Managed Care Organizations for questions regarding EPSTD services billing.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) website at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD website at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the MO HealthNet ID card.

**Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896**