

What is Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment or EPSDT?

EPSDT stands for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment. In New Mexico every child under the age of twenty-one and covered by the Medicaid State Plan program is eligible for EPSDT services. These services are required by the federal government and include preventative check-ups, diagnostic tests and direct services, such as therapies. EPSDT services must be medically necessary and are intended to improve or maintain the health of the individual.

Who is Eligible for EPSDT?

EPSDT services are medically necessary services, including prevention, treatment, and ameliorative services (to help the person improve) for Medicaid recipients under 21. Prior to receiving EPSDT services, recipients have a tot-to-teen health check. EPSDT treatment services include services such as, Private Duty Nursing; Personal Care; Behavioral Health, and Rehabilitation Services, such as Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy services.

What is “medically necessary”?

The State defines “medically necessary services” in 8.302.1.7 NMAC, as clinical and rehabilitative physical, mental or behavioral health services that are (1) essential to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions or are essential to enable the individual to attain, maintain or regain function capacity; and (2) are delivered in the amount, duration, scope and setting that is clinically appropriate to the specific physical, mental and behavioral health care needs of the individual; (3) are provided within professionally accepted standards of practice and national guidelines; and (4) are required to meet the physical, mental and behavioral health needs of the individual and are not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the provider or the payer.

How do I access EPSDT services?

Call your Salud! Care Coordinator. If you already have a Care Coordinator but don't know who that is, call your Salud! Member Services number and the representative will know and connect you with the Care Coordinator. If you don't have a Care Coordinator and want one, ask for one at that time. The Care Coordinator can assist you in accessing EPSDT services for your child.

Who do I contact for more information on EPSDT services?

If you would like more information about EPSDT services you can contact the New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division at 888-997-2583. If your child is currently enrolled in a Salud! Managed care program, you can contact client services as ask to speak with a Care Coordinator. You may also want to look at the Kaiser foundation for more information on EPSDT services at www.kff.org and typing EPSDT in the search field located in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

EPSDT Example

John is an 11 year old boy who recently sustained a brain injury due to an automobile accident. Due to his brain injury, he receives SSI and therefore is eligible for Medicaid. John receives several services through EPSDT in a variety of settings. His motorized wheelchair and eyeglasses are covered by EPSDT. In addition, John has a bus assistant to aid him in getting to and from school each day. John's school is a participating Medicaid provider, and so many of the services on his IEP are covered by EPSDT. These include two hours per week of speech and language therapy, three hours per week of physical therapy, and an aide that he shares with one other child to assist in normal daily activities. John also receives 8 hours of personal care each week in his home through EPSDT.