



## What You Need to Know About Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Services

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services.

**Early:** Evaluating and detecting problems early

Prevention is key to early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of medical conditions before they become more difficult to treat. It is important that children and adolescents enrolled in Medicaid receive all recommended preventive services and any medical treatment needed to promote healthy growth and development.

**Periodic:** Checking children's health at age-appropriate times

Infants, children and adolescents should see their health care providers regularly. New York State has adopted check-up recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics' Bright Futures guidelines. These guidelines help doctors and families understand the types of care that infants, children and adolescents should get and when. Go to Bright Futures to learn more <https://brightfutures.aap.org/families/Pages/Well-Child-Visits.aspx>

**Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other tests to detect potential problems

All infants, children and adolescents should receive regular well-child physical and mental health check-ups including review of their growth, development, and nutritional status. A well-child check-up includes:

- A complete health and developmental history and assessment
- Physical exam
- Age-appropriate immunizations
- Vision and hearing tests
- Dental exam
- Laboratory tests, including blood lead levels (age-appropriate)
- Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance

**Diagnostic:** Diagnostic tests to follow up when a health risk is identified

When a health risk is identified during a well-child check-up your doctor is required to provide follow up diagnostic testing and evaluation under the EPSDT program including diagnosis of mental health, substance use, vision, hearing, and dental problems and any necessary referral so that your child or adolescent receives all needed care.

**Treatment:** Correct, reduce or control health problems found

EPSDT covers health care, treatment, and other measures necessary to correct or improve the child or adolescent's physical or mental conditions found by a screening or a diagnostic procedure. For further information about the EPSDT program go to [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment | Medicaid](#)

