



# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

## AN OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS ABOUT EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

### **Introduction**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Medicaid made this bulletin to help parents and caregivers understand the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit and how to get medical or behavioral health services for their children.

### **What is EPSDT?**

The EPSDT benefit is provided to ensure physical conditions or mental illnesses, which can affect a child's growth or development are found and treated early.

### **Who can get EPSDT services?**

By law, any child enrolled in Medicaid must be allowed to get medically necessary screenings, diagnosis, and treatment for physical conditions or mental illnesses. If Idaho Medicaid doesn't usually cover a service but it is listed in the federal Medicaid law, then it is coverable under EPSDT.

Companies who provide these services to children enrolled in Idaho Medicaid must use EPSDT as a guide.

### **What Services can be provided under the EPSDT guidelines?**

The following is a general list of EPSDT services for children:

- Screening services (well child checks, immunizations and lead and developmental screenings)
- Lab tests
- Health education
- Vision services
- Dental services
- Hearing services
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services
- Rehabilitative services
- Personal care services
- Diagnostic Services
- Treatment (physical or mental illnesses or conditions)
- Transportation to and from medical appointments

Any other service(s) that Medicaid may pay for to sustain, correct, or improve a health condition.

## **How do you get services for your child?**

If you have concerns about your child's health or condition, ask your child's primary care doctor for a well-child check. This should include a physical exam; immunizations; screenings for lead levels, dental, vision, motor, cognitive and behavioral functioning; as well as general health guidance. If the doctor can't take care of some of your child's health needs, then the doctor should send you to another Medicaid provider who can help.

## **What should you do if your provider's request for services is denied?**

Idaho Medicaid or its contractors must send you a notice in the mail if any of these things happen:

- Your request for services is denied.
- The amount of your child's services is reduced (for example, 5 therapy sessions instead of 8).
- The length of time your child receives services is reduced (for example, therapy approved for 8 weeks instead of 12 weeks).
- The intensity of your child's services is reduced (fewer sessions per week/month).

If your request for services is denied, you have a right to file an appeal. The denial letter will tell you how to file an appeal.

## **Resources**

Please use the links below to get forms and more information about services that are available to you:

- [EPSDT Request for Additional Services form](#) is available on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's website. You can also request the form by sending an email to [EPSDTRequest@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:EPSDTRequest@dhw.idaho.gov).
- [Optum Idaho](#) has services for community-based, outpatient mental health and substance use disorder needs. You can also call them at 1 (855) 202-0973.
- The [Idaho Health Plan Coverage Booklet](#) has information about your child's Medicaid coverage and the EPSDT benefit.
- [MCNA Dental](#) provides dental services. You can call them at 1(855) 233-6262.
- [IDAPA 16.03.09.880](#): EPSDT medical necessity definition for children.
- [Veyo](#) provides transportation for EPSDT services when no other transportation is available. You can call them at 1(877)503-1261 for transportation assistance.