Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)

EPSDT services are federally-mandated services. They are intended to provide preventive health care to medical assistance covered children and young adults ages newborn to 20.99.

All primary care providers (PCPs) who provide services to Medical Assistance recipients under age 21 are required to provide comprehensive health care, screening and preventive services. We require our network PCPs to provide all EPSDT services in compliance with federal and state regulations and at intervals following the defined EPSDT periodicity schedule.

Required EPSDT visit screening services (also requiring a code entered into EPSDT claim or a lab slip)

Aetna Better Health participating practitioners and providers are required to make the following screening services available to EPSDT-eligible recipients at the ages recommended on the periodicity schedule. If you are interested in using some recommended screening tools, please refer to the EPSDT folder in the Quality Improvement Resources section of the Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania website. You may access this information by clicking this link: aetnabetterhealth.com/pennsylvania/assets/pdf/epsdt/DevelopmentalDelaysAndAutism-PA.pdf

- Anemia screening (between age 9-12 months)
- Structured developmental screening (between ages 9-11 months, again at age 18 months and again at age 30 months) using a validated screening tool
- Structured autism screening (at age 18 months and again at age 24 months)
- Visual acuity screening (annually ages 3-20.99)
- Hearing screening (annually ages 3-20.99)
- Dyslipidemia screening (once between ages 9 and 11 years and once between ages 17 and 20 years) other ages if indicated by history and/or symptoms
- Blood lead screening – All children should receive a screening blood lead test at twelve (12) months and twenty-four (24) months of age. Children between the ages of thirty-six (36) months and seventy-two (72) months of age with no record of a previous blood lead screening test must receive one.

Required codes

When billing an EPSDT visit, enter all screening service codes per the periodicity schedule. Also, utilize the correct code when ordering lab work.

- EPSDT visit- 99381-99385 (New Patients), 99391-99395 (Established Patients)
- Anemia screening- 85018
- Structured developmental screening- 96110
- Structured autism screening- 96110 U1
- Visual acuity screening- 99173
- Hearing screening- 92551, 92552
- Dyslipidemia screening- 80061
- Blood lead screening- 83655
- Depression screening 96161 (annually ages 12 -20.99)
- Maternal Depression screening 96160 (Newborn visit through 6 month visit)
- Dental referral- YD
Dental screening

The first examination and dental referral occurs at the time of the eruption of the first tooth. Dental risk assessments and referral to a dental home is a required component of the EPSDT visit at ages 12 months, 18 months, 24 months and 30 months, and annually thereafter, or as indicated by the child’s risk status/susceptibility to disease.

Providers should check for the following and initiate treatment or refer as necessary:

- Missing permanent teeth
- Fillings present
- Oral infection
- Other oral concerns

Also, you should:

- Document the dental referral in the child’s medical record
- Enter the EPSDT referral code YD in field 10d on the CMS 1500 claim form
- Document the referral to the dental home in the child’s medical record

Problems suspected during screening exam

You must refer any child under the age of 5 years with a suspected developmental problem (and not already receiving Early Intervention Services) to PA CONNECT at 1-800-692-7288 for appropriate referral to local Early Intervention Services.

You should refer children age 5 and older to the right specialist for further diagnosis and treatment.

Early Intervention Services may include:

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology and hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services

When you make a referral, be sure to enter the right EPSDT referral code into line 10d of the CMS 1500.

EPSDT referral codes (enter on line 10d of CMS 1500)

YD- Dental Referral
YM- Medical Referral
YB- Behavioral Health Referral
YV- Vision Referral
YH- Hearing Referral
YO- Other Referral

Fluoride in the PCP office

You can apply dental fluoride in the PCP office at eruption of first tooth, through age 4.99 years, up to four times per year. You can get extra reimbursement for fluoride application. Use code 99188 (CPT) or D1206 or D1208 (CDT).
More EPSDT required screenings not requiring coding into claim

- Developmental surveillance- newborn through age 20.99, every EPSDT visit, except where structured developmental screening is required
- Psychosocial/behavioral assessment- newborn through age 20.99, every EPSDT visit
- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use assessment- annually through risk assessment, ages 11-20.99

Testing as indicated by history or symptoms

If indicated by history and/or symptoms, you can order the following tests as part of EPSDT:

- Tuberculin test
- Sickle Cell
- Sexually transmitted infections
- HIV Screening (ages 11 through 20.99 years)
- Dyslipidemia
- Anemia (ages 15 months through 20.99 years)

Strategies for improvement

- Utilize NCQA coding tips to actively reflect care rendered
- Educate staff to schedule visits within the guideline timeframes
- Outreach parents to schedule their child’s Well-Child exam
- Exam requirements can be performed during sick visits or a Well-Child exam
- Never miss an opportunity to perform a Well-Child exam, even during a sick visit

Documentation required

Document all screenings and developmental surveillances performed in the medical record, including follow-ups, results, and anticipatory guidance given. The medical record must include documentation indicating that a Developmental Screening was performed with a validated screening tool at 9-11 months, 18 months and 30 months.

Numerator codes

There is a large list of approved NCQA codes used to identify the services included in EPSDT. Please see the attached document for a few of the approved codes. For a complete list please refer to the NCQA website at www.ncqa.org.