

Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Testing (EPSDT)
also known as Kan-Be-Healthy

What is EPSDT?

EPSDT provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for individuals under 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. It provides screening and services at medically appropriate times. It also provides medically necessary health care services, even if the service is not available under the Kansas Medicaid plan.

Who can be covered by EPSDT?

Any person under the age of 21 who is covered on Medicaid including programs like Children's Medicaid, CHIP, Pregnancy program, Parent and Caregiver program, Foster Care Medicaid coverage and Home and Community Based services (HCBS) Waivers.

Once an individual is no longer eligible for any of the KanCare programs, they are also no longer eligible for EPSDT. For example, children with Medicaid or CHIP lose Medicaid when they turn 19. They will lose EPSDT when they lose their Medicaid.

How does EPSDT help children and families?

- Helps children on Medicaid and their families make use of available health resources
- Assesses the child's needs through initial and periodic examination and evaluation.
- Assures that health problems are diagnosed and treated early.

What does EPSDT really mean?

- **Early** – means assessing and identifying problems early. Prevention helps ensure the early identification, diagnosis and treatment of conditions before they become more complex and costlier to treat.
- **Periodic** – means checking children’s health at age-appropriate times. Each state has its own schedule for recommended checkups at each age.
- **Screening** – means providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems.
- **Diagnosis** – means performing tests to follow up when a health risk is identified. This also includes any necessary referrals, so the child receives all the necessary treatment.
- **Treatment** – is provided to correct, reduce or control health problems found.

Note: Services that maintain or preserve the child’s current health condition are required by EPSDT. States must cover any treatment that is considered “medically necessary.”

What is Medically Necessary?

- By Federal statute, services available under EPSDT are not limited to services currently available in the Kansas Medicaid State Plan
- Services must be those which **could** be provided in the State Plan
- States determine necessity of services and are not required to provide:
 - Experimental treatments or items
 - Services or items determined to not be safe or effective
 - Services for caregiver convenience
- Appropriate limits may be placed on EPSDT services
- States may consider relative cost effectiveness of alternative services
- States can establish amount, duration and scope of services
- Home and Community Based Services are not included in EPSDT
- Services cannot be denied arbitrarily
- MCOs are responsible for determining medical necessity on a case by case basis

- Designated health care provider makes the recommendation
- If there is a difference of opinion between the health care provider and the MCO, the state makes the decision based on evidence.

Where can I find more information on EPSDT?

- [Bright Futures](#)
 - [Schedule](#) for periodic checkups and testing
- Medicaid website
 - [EPSDT – A guide for States](#): Coverage in the Medicaid Benefit for Children and Adolescents
 - [EPSDT overview by Medicaid](#)
 - [What you need to know about EPSDT](#)
- For concerns or issues with EPSDT, Medicaid members and families can contact:
 - Kansas Department for Health and Environment at 1-785-296-3981

This document is provided in cooperation with the Kansas Department for Health and Environment.