



Department of Health Care Services

Medi-Cal Coverage for EPSDT:

Consistent with state and federal law and regulations for EPSDT, Medi-Cal covers all medically necessary services, including those to “correct or ameliorate” defects and physical and mental illnesses or conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, physician, nurse practitioner and hospital services; physical, speech/language, and occupational therapies; home health services, including medical equipment, supplies, and appliances; treatment for mental health and substance use disorders; and treatment for vision, hearing, and dental diseases and disorders. All of these services are at no-cost to individuals under age 21 who have full-scope Medi-Cal.

EPSDT services are key to ensuring that infants, children, and youth receive age-appropriate preventive services, including screening for medical, dental, vision, hearing, and mental health, and for substance use disorders, as well as receiving developmental and specialty services.

- **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early.
- **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals. To achieve this purpose, DHCS uses the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Bright Futures periodicity schedule and anticipatory guidance. When “interperiodic” check-ups are necessary, they are covered as well. In early 2019, more specific information may be found in the Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Preventive Services section.)
- **Screening:** Medi-Cal provides or arranges for screening services for medical, dental, vision, hearing, and mental health, and for substance use disorders, as well as developmental and specialty services. EPSDT screening and preventive services cover a broad range of services, including but not limited to:
 - Services assigned a grade “A” or “B” recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).
 - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines.
 - Preventive care and screening for infants and children recommended by Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's)/AAP's Bright Futures periodicity schedule and anticipatory guidance
 - For more information on screening and diagnostic services for children, visit the [Child Health and Disability Prevention Program \(CHDP\) website](#).
- **Diagnostic:** When a screening indicates the need for further evaluation and follow-up, EPSDT covers diagnostic services. Necessary referrals should be made without delay and with necessary follow-up to ensure a complete diagnostic evaluation is received whenever potential risk is identified.



- **Treatment:** Any necessary health care services to control, correct, or improve health problems discovered by any screening and diagnostic procedures are provided.

Services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries under age 21 are available when medically necessary and when covered by Medicaid, even if such services are not included in California's Medicaid State Plan (Medi-Cal). EPSDT also ensures assistance with scheduling appointments and arranging transportation for Medi-Cal covered appointments.