

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

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Making Ohio Better

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) - Overview

Healthchek is Ohio's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

- » **Purpose:** To discover and treat health problems early. If a potential health problem is found, further diagnosis and treatment are covered by Medicaid.
- » **Service package:** For babies, kids, and young adults younger than age 21 who are enrolled on Ohio Medicaid. (Also includes parents younger than age 21.)
- » **Covers:** ten check-ups in the first two years of life and annual check-ups thereafter, including a comprehensive physical examination.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) – Overview

Any doctor who accepts Medicaid can provide Healthchek services.

- » Sometimes, a provider may refer a patient for specialized care. Some services may need prior approval.

Healthchek services are a part of the benefit package offered by every managed care plan to members, and to those enrolled on a Medicaid home and community-based waiver.

Each county has a Healthchek Coordinator to assist individuals with accessing Healthchek services, making appointments, and arranging transportation.

- » Managed care plans and county Healthchek Coordinators work together to ensure Healthchek services are available.
- » Often, the Healthchek Coordinator also serves as the Pregnancy-Related Services (PRS) coordinator.
- » PRS Coordinators can assist pregnant women with accessing prenatal services and can explain the importance of attending appointments to increase the likelihood of a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.
- » The PRS Coordinator can explain Healthchek to a mother before the baby is born.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) - Requirements

Healthchek services are required by the federal government. Services include:

- » a comprehensive health and developmental history to assess physical and mental health,
- » screenings for potential health problems – including vision, hearing, and dental screenings.

Federal guidelines require the program to include:

- » 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;
- » Treatment for vision, hearing and dental diseases and disorders, and;
- » Much more.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) - Requirements

States must provide or arrange for screening services both at established times and on an as-needed basis.

- » States must establish a periodicity schedule for each type of screening service

State may not:

- » Limit the number of medically necessary screenings a child receives
- » Require prior authorization for either periodic or “interperiodic” screenings.

Federal law provides for coverage of all medically necessary services included within the categories of mandatory and optional services listed in section 1905(a), regardless of whether such services are covered under a State Plan.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) - Requirements

Services that maintain or improve the child's current health condition are also covered in EPSDT because they "ameliorate" a condition.

- » Common definition of "ameliorate" is to "make more tolerable." Thus, services such as physical and occupational therapy are covered when they have an ameliorative, maintenance purpose.

To promote access to needed preventive, diagnostic and treatment services, states must offer:

- » Appointment scheduling assistance
- » Coordination of necessary transportation, to and from medical appointments, for children enrolled in Medicaid.
- » Coverage of "related travel expenses" if medically necessary - including meals and lodging for a child and necessary attendant.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) - Requirements

State Medicaid agencies and their contractors should inform eligible individuals about the EPSDT benefit with a combination of written and oral methods:

- » “Using clear and nontechnical language” and “effectively informing those individuals who . . . cannot read or understand the English language.”

State Medicaid programs, managed care entities, and Medicaid-participating health care providers should all be culturally competent:

- » Need to recognize and understand the cultural beliefs and health practices of the families and children they serve
- » Use that knowledge to implement policies and inform practices that support quality interventions and good health outcomes for children.

Healthchek Services (EPSDT) – Possible Limits

States may impose utilization controls to safeguard against unnecessary use of care and services.

- » **Example:** A state may establish tentative limits on the amount of a treatment service a child can receive and require prior authorization for coverage of medically necessary services above those limits.

EPSDT does not require coverage of treatments, services, or items that are experimental or investigational.

States may consider the relative cost effectiveness of alternatives as part of the prior authorization process.

Medical Necessity

Medical Necessity Rule – OAC 5160-1-01

Recent changes have aligned policies and coverage around EPSDT and non-EPSDT services

- » Effective 3/31/2015
- » Created a new definition of medical necessity for individuals covered through EPSDT
- » Added “adverse health condition” language to medical necessity definition
- » Established the rule as a definition rule – not a coverage rule
- » Requires that the primary beneficiary of a service must be specified
- » Clarified that a service simply delivered by a physician or practitioner does not, in and of itself, mean that a service is medically necessary and eligible for payment; and
- » Clarified that implementing criterion for medical necessity may be described under other Medicaid coverage rules

Medicaid in Schools Program

Medicaid in Schools Program

Ohio Medicaid reimburses schools through the Medicaid in Schools Program (MSP) for services provided to children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Reimbursable services include:

- » behavioral health
- » nursing
- » occupational therapy
- » targeted case management
- » specialized transportation

The school is responsible for providing these services, but can draw federal funds through the MSP program to reimburse 63 percent of the cost.

Currently 580 school systems enrolled in the MSP program serving 61,000 Medicaid-eligible students with an IEP.

Medicaid in Schools Program

The 2016 – 17 Executive Budget expanded the Medicaid in Schools Program (MSP) to include:

- » Intensive behavioral services provided by a Certified Ohio Behavioral Analyst (COBA)
- » Services provided by an aide under the direction of a registered nurse or COBA; and
- » Specialized transportation from a child's home to school.

Such changes will allow schools to claim federal funds totaling an estimated \$46.5 million over the biennium.

Federal Requirement

- » Issued by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- » Mandated for all Medicaid providers in Ohio
- » Required for other states' school-based Medicaid programs

Federal Requirement

All school-based services reimbursed by Medicaid must be *ordered, referred or prescribed* by a physician or licensed practitioner of the healing arts

Effective: August 1, 2016

Who can Order, Refer, or Prescribe?

Provider types authorized to order, refer, or prescribe in the State of Ohio under the state's Medicaid program:

- » Physician (DO or MD)
- » Advance Practice Nurse (APN)
- » Physician's Assistant (PA)

Must have a *valid National Provider Identifier (NPI)* number and be *actively enrolled in Medicaid* as either a provider of physician services, or as an ORP-only provider (does not bill Medicaid).

What Does This Mean for MSP Providers?

Beginning Aug. 1, 2016 (the 2016-17 school year):

To receive Medicaid reimbursement for services provided to a Medicaid eligible-student with a disability:

- » Medicaid claims from MSP providers to ODM must include the name and NPI number of the individual who ordered/ referred/ prescribed the service for the student.

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