

# Medicaid HealthWatch Program

## Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)

EPSDT is pediatric preventive care for Indiana children and young adults. EPSDT stands for **E**arly and **P**eriodic **S**creening, **D**iagnosis, and **T**reatment. The program is designed to improve the overall health of Medicaid eligible children by ensuring that they get the medical screening and testing they need to help prevent and/or find out about childhood diseases and illnesses early.

### Who Qualifies?

All Medicaid enrolled individuals from birth to twenty-one (21) years of age may participate in the EPSDT program.

### Early and Periodic Screening

To keep your children healthy, regular EPSDT screenings should be scheduled with your child's regular doctor (Primary Care Physician or PCP). It is recommended that visits be scheduled at the following intervals:

Under 1 Month	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months
9 Months	12 Months	15 Months	18 Months
24 Months	30 Months	Annually from ages 3 to 21	

- Call your regular doctor to schedule a checkup. If you cannot keep your appointment, call the doctor's office and cancel. Reschedule the checkup as soon as possible.
- Be sure to bring your child's insurance card(s) with you to the appointment, along with your child's shot record.

Your child's doctor will typically provide the following services during an EPSDT visit:

- A complete physical exam
- Complete health history, including: physical, developmental, nutritional and mental health assessment.
- Immunizations (shots)
- Laboratory tests, which may include blood lead and urine screens
- Vision, hearing and dental screenings
- Preventive health education
- Developmental and nutritional checks

### What to Expect During an EPSDT Visit:

Your child's regular doctor will use these visits to make sure that your child is healthy and developing well. Your child will get a physical exam along with hearing, vision, or other screening tests. Your doctor may ask questions such as:

- "How does your baby respond to new people?"
- "How many hours does your child sleep at night?"
- "How is school going?"
- "How does your child handle stress?"
- "How are things going with your child's therapy program?"

MCH Moms  
Helpline:

1-844-MCH-MOMS

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There should also be time for you to ask questions, for you to discuss your concerns, and for your child to talk directly to their provider. These visits are the perfect time to ask your health care provider's advice, such as:

- “Does my child need any shots at this time?”
- “How often does my child need to see the dentist?”
- “If I need help after office hours, what can I do?”
- “How often do you test for lead poisoning?”

An EPDST visit is also a great time to have school, sports, or camp physicals completed.

### **Diagnosis and Treatment**

EPSDT checkups may help your child’s doctor find and treat health conditions before they become more serious. The physician will perform diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified. If a test result detects a problem, your child’s Medicaid coverage should pay for medically necessary treatment services. Your child’s regular doctor may provide treatment or refer your child to a specialist for follow-up care. If a treatment maintains a child’s current condition or makes it easier for a child to live with that condition, in general, it must be covered by EPSDT. Treating the problems found without delay/early intervention can improve outcomes.

### **What if Treatment is Denied?**

Treatment under EPSDT must be medically necessary, a Medicaid-covered service, and provided by an approved provider. If your child has a service denied, you will receive written notification of denial, along with instructions for appeal.

### **Where to Learn More**

To learn more about EPSDT, including how to schedule these visits for your child and transportation to get there, contact the Health Plan your child is enrolled with: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/135.htm>

General information can be found at: <http://member.indianamedicaid.com> or by calling the MCH Moms Helpline: 1-844-624-6667

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated April 2023. Please check <https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html> for the most recent edition.

This fact sheet was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$93,175 with 87% percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of INF2F and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).