

Washington Apple Health (Medicaid)

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program Billing Guide

January 1, 2018

Every effort has been made to ensure this guide's accuracy. If an actual or apparent conflict between this document and an agency rule arises, the agency rules apply.

About this guide*

This publication takes effect January 1, 2018, and supersedes earlier guides to this program.

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Washington Apple Health means the public health insurance programs for eligible Washington residents. Washington Apple Health is the name used in Washington State for Medicaid, the children's health insurance program (CHIP), and state-only funded health care programs. Washington Apple Health is administered by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

What has changed?

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
All	Reorganized the guide to be more logical and readable.	Clarification
All	Replaced “EPSDT screening” with “EPSDT well-child checkup” throughout.	More commonly used terminology
<u>Client Eligibility</u>	This section is reformatted and consolidated for clarity and hyperlinks have been updated. Effective January 1, 2018 , the agency is implementing another FIMC region , known as the North Central region, which includes Douglas, Chelan, and Grant Counties.	Housekeeping and notification of new region moving to FIMC
<u>Program Overview</u>	Moved information regarding what is included in an EPSDT well-child checkup to a section titled, <u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Clarification
	Moved information regarding the agency’s standards for covering EPSDT services and how to request services not typically covered by the agency to a section titled, <u>What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Clarification

* This publication is a billing instruction.

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
<u>Who can provide EPSDT well-child checkups?</u>	Added resident physicians to the list of providers that can provide EPSDT well-child checkups.	Clarification
	Removed information about DOH no longer providing training to nurses for EPSDT screenings.	No longer relevant
<u>Is transportation to and from EPSDT well-child checkups available?</u>	Added information about non-emergency medical transportation.	Clarification
<u>Are managed care clients eligible for EPSDT well-child checkups?</u>	Updated information about the frequency of EPSDT well-child checkups for clients enrolled in managed care organizations (MCOs).	Clarification
<u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Removed the section titled, <i>What are EPSDT Screenings?</i> Replaced it with this section. This section contains more information about what is included in an EPSDT well-child checkup.	Streamlining and clarification
<u>What is the periodicity schedule?</u>	Added a brief explanation of the periodicity schedule with a reference to <i>Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventative Pediatric Health Care.</i>	Clarification
<u>Periodicity schedule</u>	Added a periodicity schedule for providers to use when performing EPSDT well-child checkups.	Clarification
What is included in an EPSDT screening?	Removed the section. The information is included in the section titled, <u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
What are the requirements for developmental screening and surveillance and screening for autism?	Removed the section. The information is included in the section titled, <u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
<u>What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Updated information in this section to include the agency's standards for covering EPSDT services, how to request services not typically covered by the agency, and common referrals.	Streamlining and clarification

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
What additional screening components may be billed?	Removed the section. The information is included in the section titled, What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?	Streamlining
How often should EPSDT screenings occur?	Removed the section. This information is provided in the Periodicity schedule .	Streamlining and clarification
EPSDT and Foster Care	Added a new section title that includes sections about children placed in foster care only.	Streamlining and clarification
What do I need to know about EPSDT for children in foster care?	Added a new section with general information about EPSDT well-child checkups for children in foster care.	Clarification
How do I bill EPSDT well-child checkups to get the enhanced rate?	Added a new section with information about receiving an enhanced rate for EPSDT well-child checkups.	Clarification
What is an initial health evaluation (IHE) and how is it billed?	Updated the section title (formerly titled <i>What is the purpose of a foster care initial health evaluation?</i>) and updated the information to include more specific information about when an initial health evaluation (IHE) is done and how it is billed.	Clarification
What is included in an IHE?	Updated the information in this section to reference forms that include what is included in an IHE.	Clarification and not relevant to EPSDT
Can I bill for both an EPSDT well-child checkup and an IHE?	Added a section explaining the EPSDT well-child checkups and IHEs cannot be billed for the same date of service.	Clarification
How much does the agency pay for EPSDT screenings for foster care children?	Removed the section. Moved information about the placement codes to a new section titled, How can I identify a child in foster care placement?	Streamlining and clarification
How can I identify a child in foster care placement?	Updated the section title (formerly titled <i>Where do I find the client's placement information in the client record?</i>) and added the placement codes to this section.	Streamlining and clarification

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
<u>What are the time limits for scheduling requests for EPSDT well-child checkups for children in foster care?</u>	Updated the section title (formerly titled <i>What are the time limits for scheduling requests for EPSDT screenings?</i>).	Clarification
What if a problem is identified during a screening examination?	Removed the section. Moved information to a new section titled, <u>What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining and clarification
What is extended developmental testing?	Removed the section.	Does not apply to EPSDT
How is genetic counseling and genetic testing billed?	Removed the section. More information can be found in the agency's <u>Physician-Related Services/Healthcare Professional Services Billing Guide</u> and in <u>What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
How are referrals made?	Removed the section. More information can be found in <u>What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
Does the agency pay for fluoride varnish application?	Removed the section. Some information can be found in <u>What is included in an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining and clarification
Who may prescribe the fluoride varnish?	Removed the section.	No longer necessary
Who is eligible for fluoride varnish?	Removed the section. More information can be found in the agency's <u>Dental-Related Services Billing Guide</u> and in <u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
Are managed care clients eligible for fluoride varnish?	Removed the section. The information is included in the section titled, <u>What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?</u>	Streamlining
<u>Developmental and Behavioral Health Screenings</u>	Updated the section title (formerly titled <i>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Assessments</i>).	Streamlining

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Subject	Change	Reason for Change
<u>Is developmental screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?</u>	Added a section with information about developmental screening.	Clarification
<u>Is behavioral health screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?</u>	Updated the section title (formerly titled <i>Is mental health screening part of the EPSDT screening process?</i>) and added information for depression screenings and caregiver/maternal depression screenings. The new information includes an expedited prior authorization number for procedure code 96161.	Clarification and policy change
<u>Screening guidelines</u>	Added that referring providers must follow-up to ensure assessments were completed.	New legislative requirement
<u>How are substance abuse screening and treatment provided?</u>	Updated information to say that screening and brief intervention, rather than treatment, may be provided.	Clarification
<u>Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)</u>	Added that SBIRT-trained providers may be reimbursed for a brief intervention or a brief intervention and referral.	Clarification
<u>Developmental, caregiver/maternal depression, and youth depression screening tools</u>	Added a table that lists examples of available standardized tools.	Clarification
EXAMPLE referral explanation for teen or parent	Removed the section.	No longer necessary
How do I bill for vaccines that are not free from DOH for clients age 18 and younger?	Removed the section. All recommended vaccines are available free from Washington State Department of Health (DOH) for clients age 18 and younger.	Streamlining

How can I get agency provider documents?

To access provider alerts, go to the agency's [provider alerts](#) web page.

To access provider documents, go to the agency's [provider billing guides and fee schedules](#) web page.

Where can I download agency forms?

To download an agency provider form, go to HCA's Billers and providers web page, select [Forms & publications](#). Type the HCA form number into the **Search box** as shown below (Example: 13-835).

The screenshot shows the Washington State Health Care Authority website. At the top left is the logo for Washington State Health Care Authority. At the top right are navigation links: Search, Home, About HCA, and Contact HCA. Below the logo is a dark blue header with the text 'Billers and providers' and a 'ProviderOne' button. Underneath the header is a sub-header with 'Forms & publications', 'News', 'Electronic Health Records (EHR)', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is titled 'Forms & publications' and contains a search interface. It features a search input field with a magnifying glass icon, two dropdown menus set to '- Any -', and a 'Sort by' dropdown set to 'Name (A-Z)'. A blue 'Search' button is located below the search field. A blue arrow points from the top left towards the search input field.

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Table of Contents

About this guide.....	2
What has changed?	2
How can I get agency provider documents?.....	7
Where can I download agency forms?.....	7
Resources Available	10
Program Overview.....	11
Who can provide EPSDT well-child checkups?.....	11
Is transportation to and from EPSDT well-child checkups available?	11
Client Eligibility	12
How do I verify a client’s eligibility?	12
Who is eligible for EPSDT well-child checkups?	13
What if an infant has not yet been assigned a ProviderOne Client ID?.....	13
Are managed care clients eligible for EPSDT well-child checkups?	14
Managed care enrollment.....	15
Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)	15
Fully Integrated Managed Care (FIMC).....	16
Apple Health Foster Care (AHFC)	17
EPSDT Well-Child Checkups.....	18
What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?.....	18
Elements of EPSDT well-child checkup.....	19
What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?.....	24
What is the periodicity schedule?	25
EPSDT and Foster Care.....	30
What do I need to know about EPSDT for children in foster care?	30
How do I bill EPSDT well-child checkups to receive the enhanced rate?	31
What is an initial health evaluation (IHE) and how is it billed?.....	31
What is included in an IHE?	31
Can I bill for both an EPSDT well-child checkup and an IHE?	32
How often can a child in foster care have an EPSDT well-child checkup?	32
How can I identify a child in foster care placement?.....	32
What are the time limits for scheduling requests for EPSDT well-child checkups for children in foster care?.....	33
Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening	34
Is developmental screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?.....	34
Is behavioral health screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?.....	34
Screening guidelines	35

Alert! This Table of Contents is automated. Click on a page number to go directly to the page.



**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Urgent referrals	36
Nonurgent referral.....	36
How are substance abuse screening and treatment provided?	37
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)	37
Washington Recovery Help Line.....	37
Developmental, caregiver/maternal depression, and youth depression screening tools.....	38
EPSDT mental health/substance abuse assessment referral indicators.....	40
Immunizations.....	41
How do I bill for vaccines when clients are age 19 and 20?.....	41
What vaccines are free from the Department of Health (DOH) for clients age 18 and younger?.....	42
General Authorization.....	43
What is prior authorization (PA)?.....	43
What is a limitation extension (LE)?	43
How do I obtain written authorization?	43
Billing.....	44
How do I bill claims electronically?	44
What are the billing requirements specific to EPSDT?	45



Resources Available

Topic	Contact
Where can I find information on becoming an agency provider?	See the agency's ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide .
Questions on payments, denials, general questions regarding claims processing, or agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO)	
Submitting claims for payment	
Questions on private insurance or third-party liability, other than agency-contracted managed care plans	
Questions about prior authorization, limitation extensions, or exception to rule	
Referral for Mental Health	Behavioral Health Organization (BHO).
Referral for Substance Abuse Assessment	Washington Recovery Help Line
Where is the EPSDT Fee Schedule?	See the agency's EPSDT Fee Schedule
Obtaining prior authorization or a limitation extension	<p>For all requests for prior authorization or limitation extension, submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A completed, typed <i>General Information for Authorization</i> form, HCA 13-835. This request form must be the initial page when you submit your request. • A completed <i>Fax/Written Request Basic Information</i> form, HCA 13-756, and all the documentation listed on this form and any other medical justification. <p>Fax your request to: 866-668-1214.</p> <p>See Where can I download agency forms?</p>

Program Overview

[Title 42 CFR, Part 441, Subpart B](#)

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federally mandated preventive health care benefit. The purpose of this program is to periodically screen clients age 20 and younger to detect physical and behavioral health problems. If a problem or potential problem is identified, the client should receive appropriate treatment. Medically necessary treatment identified in the EPSDT well-child checkup is covered under the EPSDT benefit.

Who can provide EPSDT well-child checkups?

- Physicians and resident physicians
- Naturopathic physicians
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs)
- Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Registered nurses working under the guidance of a physician or ARNP may also perform EPSDT well-child checkups. (Only physicians, PAs, and ARNPs can diagnose and treat problems found in a screening.)

Is transportation to and from EPSDT well-child checkups available?

Yes. Apple Health covers non-emergency medical transportation for eligible clients to and from covered services, including well-child checkups, through contracted brokers when eligibility requirements are met. For more information, see the agency's [Transportation services \(non-emergency\) webpage](#).

Client Eligibility

Most Apple Health clients are enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO). This means that Apple Health pays a monthly premium to an MCO for providing preventative, primary, specialty, and other health services to Apple Health clients. Clients in managed care must see only providers who are in their MCO's provider network, unless prior authorized or to treat urgent or emergent care. See the agency's [Apple Health managed care page](#) for further details.

It is important to always check a client's eligibility prior to providing any services because it affects who will pay for the services.

How do I verify a client's eligibility?

Check the client's Services Card or follow the two-step process below to verify that a client has Apple Health coverage for the date of service and that the client's benefit package covers the applicable service. This helps prevent delivering a service the agency will not pay for.

Is the client enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO), in a behavioral health organization (BHO), or is the client receiving services through fee-for-service (FFS) Apple Health?

Verifying eligibility is a two-step process:

Step 1. Verify the patient's eligibility for Apple Health. For detailed instructions on verifying a patient's eligibility for Apple Health, see the *Client Eligibility, Benefit Packages, and Coverage Limits* section in the agency's [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#).

If the patient is eligible for Apple Health, proceed to **Step 2**. If the patient is **not** eligible, see the note box below.

Step 2. Verify service coverage under the Apple Health client's benefit package. To determine if the requested service is a covered benefit under the Apple Health client's benefit package, see the agency's [Program Benefit Packages and Scope of Services](#) web page.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Note: Patients who are not Apple Health clients may submit an application for health care coverage in one of the following ways:

1. By visiting the Washington Healthplanfinder's website at:
www.wahealthplanfinder.org
2. By calling the Customer Support Center toll-free at: 855-WAFINDER (855-923-4633) or 855-627-9604 (TTY)
3. By mailing the application to:
Washington Healthplanfinder
PO Box 946
Olympia, WA 98507

In-person application assistance is also available. To get information about in-person application assistance available in their area, people may visit www.wahealthplanfinder.org or call the Customer Support Center.

Note: Refer clients to the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) if they are age 20 and younger and their benefit package does not cover EPSDT. This application process will evaluate these clients for a possible change in their benefit package to include EPSDT. Take Charge is an example of a benefit package that does not cover EPSDT services.

Who is eligible for EPSDT well-child checkups?

WAC [182-534-0100](#) (1)

The agency pays Washington Apple Health providers to perform EPSDT well-child checkups of clients who are:

- Age 20 and younger.
- On a benefit package that covers EPSDT.

What if an infant has not yet been assigned a ProviderOne Client ID?

Newborns: If a child is younger than age 60 days and has not been issued a ProviderOne Client ID, use the mother's ProviderOne Client ID and put **SCI=B** in the claim notes field. Put the child's name, gender, and birth date in the client information fields.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Twins/Triplets: When using mom's ProviderOne Client ID for twins, triplets, etc., identify each infant separately (e.g., twin A, twin B) using a separate claim for each.

Note: For parents enrolled in an agency-contracted MCO, the MCO is responsible for providing medical coverage for the clients' newborns.

Are managed care clients eligible for EPSDT well-child checkups?

WAC [182-538-060](#) and 095

Yes. If the client is enrolled in an agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO), ProviderOne will display managed care enrollment on the client benefit inquiry screen. All services must be requested directly through the client's Primary Care Provider (PCP). Clients can contact their MCO by calling the telephone number provided to them.

Note: Children enrolled in agency-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs) have coverage for the same frequency of EPSDT well-child checkups as described in the Apple Health [Periodicity schedule](#), except for children age 3 through age 20. Children in this age group are allowed one EPSDT well-child checkup per calendar year.

MCOs also offer limitation extensions for well-child checkups with prior authorization for children who need more frequent exams based on medical necessity.

All medical services covered under an agency-contracted MCO must be obtained by the client through the client's MCO provider network. The MCO is responsible for the:

- Payment of covered services.
- Payment of services referred by a participating provider to an outside provider.

Note: To prevent denied claims, check the client's eligibility both **before** scheduling services and at the **time of the service**. Also make sure proper authorization or referral is obtained from the MCO. See the agency's [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#) for instructions on how to verify a client's eligibility.

For clients enrolled in an MCO, do not bill the agency for EPSDT services, as they are included in the agency-contracted MCO's reimbursement rate.

Managed care enrollment

Apple Health (Medicaid) places clients into an agency-contracted MCO the same month they are determined eligible for managed care as a new or renewing client. This eliminates a person being placed temporarily in FFS while they are waiting to be enrolled in an MCO or reconnected with a prior MCO. This enrollment policy also applies to clients in FFS who have a change in the program they are eligible for.

New clients are those initially applying for benefits or those with changes in their existing eligibility program that consequently make them eligible for Apple Health managed care. Renewing clients are those who have been enrolled with an MCO but have had a break in enrollment and have subsequently renewed their eligibility.

Checking eligibility

- Providers must check eligibility and know when a client is enrolled and with which MCO. For help with enrolling, clients can refer to the Washington Healthplanfinder's [Get Help Enrolling](#) page.
- MCOs have retroactive authorization and notification policies in place. The provider must know the MCO's requirements and be compliant with the MCO's policies.

Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) manages the contracts for behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorder) for eight of the Regional Service Areas (RSAs) in the state. The remaining regions have [fully integrated managed care \(FIMC\)](#).

See the agency's [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#) for details.

Fully Integrated Managed Care (FIMC)

For clients who live in an FIMC region, all physical health services, mental health services, and drug and alcohol treatment are covered and coordinated by the client's agency-contracted MCO. The BHO will not provide behavioral health services in these counties.

Clients living in an FIMC region will enroll with an MCO of their choice that is available in that region. If the client does not choose an MCO, the client will be automatically enrolled into one of the available MCOs, unless the client is American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN). Clients currently enrolled in one of the available MCOs in their region may keep their enrollment when the behavioral health services are added.

Effective July 1, 2017, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) clients living in an FIMC region of Washington may choose to enroll in one of the agency-contracted MCOs available in that region or they may choose to receive all these services through Apple Health FFS. If they do not choose an MCO, they will be automatically enrolled into Apple Health FFS for all their health care services, including comprehensive behavioral health services. See the agency's [American Indian/Alaska Native webpage](#).

For more information about the services available under the FFS program, see the agency's [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#) and the [Substance Use Disorder Billing Guide](#).

For full details on FIMC, see the agency's [Changes to Apple Health managed care webpage](#).

FIMC Regions

Clients who reside in either of the following two FIMC regions and who are eligible for managed care enrollment must choose an available MCO in their region. Specific details, including information about mental health crisis services, can be found on the agency's [Apple Health managed care webpage](#).

North Central Region – Douglas, Chelan and Grant Counties

Effective January 1, 2018, the agency will implement the second FIMC region known as the North Central Region, which includes Douglas, Chelan, and Grant Counties.

Southwest Washington Region – Clark and Skamania Counties

Effective April 1, 2016, the agency implemented the first FIMC region known as the Southwest Washington Region, which includes Clark and Skamania Counties. Clients eligible for managed care enrollment choose to enroll in one of two available MCOs in this region.

Apple Health Foster Care (AHFC)

Coordinated Care of Washington (CCW) provides all physical health care (medical) benefits, lower-intensity outpatient mental health benefits and care coordination for all Washington State foster care enrollees through a single, statewide managed care plan known as Apple Health Core Connections (AHCC).

Clients under this program are:

- Under the age of 21 who are in foster care (out of home placement)
- Under the age of 21 who are receiving adoption support
- Age 18-21 years old in extended foster care
- Age 18 to 26 years old who aged out of foster care on or after their 18th birthday (alumni)

These clients are identified in ProviderOne as
“Coordinated Care Healthy Options Foster Care.”

See the agency’s [Apple Health managed care page](#), Apple Health Foster Care for further details.

EPSDT Well-Child Checkups

What is an EPSDT well-child checkup?

EPSDT requires a periodic well-child checkup with the client's primary care provider (PCP). The recommended frequency of visits as a child grows is shown on the [Periodicity Schedule](#).

Each well-child checkup consists of the following elements, though how the element is completed depends on the age of the child.

1. Initial/interval health history and a family health history
2. Measurements – age appropriate growth including length/height and weight and blood pressure
3. Sensory screening – vision and hearing*
4. Developmental/behavioral health screening*
5. Physical exam
6. Procedures, including immunizations and laboratory tests*
7. Oral health and fluoride varnish*
8. Anticipatory guidance

*These components have add-on codes that may be billed in addition to the EPSDT evaluation and management (E&M) codes when appropriate. See information about each component and the available add-on codes in the descriptions listed below this section. See [What are the billing requirements specific to EPSDT](#) for more information about billing the EPSDT E&M codes.

The EPSDT well-child checkup schedule includes:

- 5 checkups between birth and one year
- 3 checkups between one and three years
- One checkup each year between three and six years
- One checkup every other year for ages seven through 20.

See the [Periodicity Schedule](#) for more information.

Children in foster care may receive additional EPSDT well-child checkups. See [EPSDT and Foster Care](#) for more information.

Providers must document in the client's medical record that each required element/component of the well-child checkup has been done at the visit and what the findings were.

Elements of EPSDT well-child checkup

1. Initial/Interval health history and a family health history

It is the responsibility of each provider to obtain both a comprehensive client and family medical history as part of the initial well-child visit. The history should be updated at each subsequent well-child visit.

2. Measurements

- **Height/length must be measured at every well-child checkup**

Infants and small children should be measured in the recumbent position, and older children standing erect. The height should be recorded and charted on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) growth chart or other standard growth chart in the child's medical record.

Further study or referral is indicated for a child who has deviated from the usual percentile rank (determined by comparison with graphed previous measurements), or for a child whose single measurement exceeds two standard deviations from the norm for that age (beyond the 97th or below the 3rd percentile).

- **Weight must be measured at every well-child checkup**

Infants should be weighed with no clothes on, small children with just underwear and older children and adolescents with ordinary house clothes (no jackets or sweaters) and no shoes. The weight should be recorded and charted on a CDC growth chart or other standard growth chart in the child's medical record. The child's weight percentile should also be entered in the child's medical record.

Further investigation or referral is indicated for a child who has deviated from the usual percentile rank (determined by comparison with graphed previous measurements), or in a child whose single measurement exceeds two standard deviations from the norm for that age (beyond the 97th percentile or below the 3rd percentile).

- **Head circumference should be measured at every well-child checkup on infants and children up to the age of two years**

Further investigation or referral is indicated for the same situations described in height and weight, and findings should be recorded in the child's medical record. Microcephaly and macrocephaly in newborns are abnormalities not related to nutrition and need investigation or referral for evaluation. Growth in head circumference in infants is closely related to nutritional status.

- **Blood Pressure**

Blood pressure must be measured at every well-child checkup for all children age 3 years and older, using an appropriate-sized cuff. Findings should be recorded. For younger children, measure blood pressure if risk factors are identified.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

3. Sensory Screening (See [Billing](#) section for information about additional payment for certain screening tests.)

- **Vision Testing**

For children birth to age 3 years, eye evaluations should include:

- ✓ Ocular history
- ✓ Vision assessment
- ✓ External inspection of the eyes and lids
- ✓ Ocular motility
- ✓ Pupil examination
- ✓ Red reflex examination

For children age 3 years and older, eye evaluations should include:

- ✓ Criteria listed above for children birth to age 3 years
- ✓ Age-appropriate visual acuity measurement (use of Snellen chart or similar can be billed in addition to the EPSDT E&M codes using procedure code 99173)
- ✓ Attempt at ophthalmoscopy record. If not done before hospital discharge, it should be done before 3 months of age.

- **Hearing Screening**

Hearing screenings must be administered to every child age 4 years and older.

Audiometric testing may be billed in addition to the EPSDT E&M codes using procedure codes 92551 and 92552.

4. Developmental/Behavioral health screening

- **Developmental surveillance**

Developmental surveillance includes information provided by the caregiver about how the child is growing and reaching developmental milestones as well as by observations of the child during the visit. Children with abnormal behavior or who miss developmental milestones must be identified as early as possible. Questions must be included in the initial and interval history so parents and caregivers can voice concerns that relate to behavior and social activity as well as development.

- **Developmental screening**

The completion of a structured developmental screen is required for ages 9 through 11 months, 18 months, and 30 months. Use procedure code 96110 to report the completion of this screen.

- **Autism screening**

A structured autism screen is required at ages 18 months and 24 months. For information on validating screening tools, see the [Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening section](#).

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

- **Depression screening**
Structured depression screening is required for children age 12 years and older. Use procedure code 96127.
- **Caregiver/Maternal depression screening**
Caregiver/Maternal depression screening is required at well-child checkups for caregivers/mothers of infants to age 6 months. Use procedure code 96161 with EPA #870001424 for billing fee-for-service (FFS) claims.
- **Tobacco, alcohol and drug screening**

Note: See the [Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening section](#) for additional information about requirements and resources for structured screening for developmental delays, autism spectrum disorder, depression and substance abuse.

5. Physical Exam

At each visit, an age-appropriate physical examination is required with infants totally unclothed and older children undressed and appropriately draped. All findings must be documented in the medical record.

6. Procedures

- **Anemia Screening**
Initial measurement of hemoglobin or hematocrit is recommended between ages 9 and 11 months, and required by the 12-month screen if not previously done. After this, a hematocrit should only be performed if indicated by a risk assessment and/or symptoms. All premature or low-birth weight infants should have hemoglobin or hematocrit done on their first well-visit and then repeated according to the [Periodicity schedule](#). The results of the test should be entered in the child's medical record.
- **Lead Screening**
Lead screenings must be done at ages 12 and 24 months. Perform a risk assessment or screening as appropriate at every visit.
- **Tuberculin (TB) Test**
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that a child at high risk for TB exposure should be tested for tuberculosis annually. The following list includes indicators that a child is at high risk for TB exposure:
 - Has a family member or close contact with active TB disease
 - Has a family member with a positive TB skin test
 - Was born in a high-risk country (all except US, Canada, Western European countries, Australia and New Zealand)
 - Has traveled to a high-risk country and had contact with resident population for more than one week.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Children with no risk factors who live in areas where TB is not common do not need TB tests. Children whose risk is uncertain may be tested at ages 1, 4, or 6 months and at ages 11 through 16 years. Children infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) should have annual TB testing.

- **Dyslipidemia Screening**
Dyslipidemia (cholesterol) screening is a required component once between ages 9 and 11 years and again between ages 17 and 20 years. Refer to guidelines of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute found on their [Integrated Guidelines for Cardiovascular Health and Risk Reduction in Children and Adolescents webpage](#).
- **Sexually transmitted infections**
According to current recommendations, screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is indicated for sexually active adolescents.
- **HIV**
Screen for HIV at least once between ages 15 and 18 years. Youth at increased risk of HIV infection, including those who are sexually active, use injection drug, or are being tested for other STIs, should be tested for HIV and be assessed annually.
- **Immunizations**
Administer immunizations according to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Immunization Schedule, including “catch-up” schedules for clients who are missing any routine vaccinations for their age. Immunizations should be brought up to date at well-child checkups and during any other visits the child makes to the health care provider.

Apple Health covers all childhood vaccines on the CDC ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule, including those specifically required for school attendance. All routine and recommended vaccines with specific medical indications are covered.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) provides free vaccines for Apple Health clients 18 years of age and younger. Refer to the [Professional Administered Drug Fee Schedule](#) to identify the covered vaccines. When state-supplied vaccines are available, the agency pays only for the administration of the vaccine. For more information on the DOH program, including how providers can enroll, see DOH’s [Childhood Vaccine Program webpage](#).

If state-supplied vaccines are available from DOH that meet the immunization needs of Apple Health clients, providers will be reimbursed only for the administration of the vaccines.

For clients age 19 and 20 years who are eligible for EPSDT who have not completed all their routine childhood immunizations, bring their immunizations up-to-date using vaccines purchased by the provider or by referring the client to a participating pharmacy.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

If an Apple Health client will be traveling outside the United States, only the routine childhood vaccines are covered. Apple Health does not cover vaccines recommended or required for the sole purpose of international travel according to WAC [182-531-0150](#).

7. Oral Health

Oral health is critically important to overall health and well-being. All Apple Health clients should have a dental home or primary dental provider. Eligible clients may go to a dental provider for routine preventive care or for restorative care without a referral from the PCP. See the agency's [Dental-Related Services Billing Guide](#).

Eligible clients may also go to an orthodontic provider without an EPSDT screen or referral. The agency pays for orthodontics for children with cleft lip or palates or severe handicapping malocclusions. The agency reviews all requests for orthodontic treatment or orthodontic-related services for clients who are eligible for services under the EPSDT program (WAC [182-534-0100](#)). See the agency's [Orthodontic Services Billing Guide](#).

Oral health requires ongoing supervision from health care providers. At each well-child checkup the provider should do an oral assessment noting the number and location of teeth erupted, visible cavities and other symptoms. If the child does not have a dental home, the PCP should provide a referral. If the child is enrolled with managed care and does not have an established dental home, refer the client to the MCO.

Oral health assessment and education, includes:

- ✓ How to clean teeth as they erupt.
 - ✓ How to prevent early childhood caries.
 - ✓ How to recognize dental disease.
 - ✓ How dental disease is contracted.
 - ✓ Importance of preventive sealant.
 - ✓ Application of fluoride varnish, when appropriate.
- **Fluoride varnish**
Once teeth are present, fluoride varnish may be applied by qualified health care professional to all children. See the limits for fluoride varnish application in the *Topical fluoride treatment* section of the agency's [Dental-Related Services Billing Guide](#). When fluoride varnish is applied during an EPSDT well-child checkup, additional payment is available by billing procedure code D1206.

Clients enrolled in an agency-contracted MCO are eligible for fluoride varnish applications through fee-for-service (FFS). Bill the agency directly for fluoride varnish applications.

8. Anticipatory Guidance

Timely, appropriate and relevant information on child and adolescent health and development provides clients, parents and caregivers with specific advice and guidance as children grow and mature. At each visit, pertinent information should be discussed and made available in written form to clients and their families.

What if a problem is identified during an EPSDT well-child checkup?

When a health, developmental, or behavioral problem is identified during a screening examination, the provider may:

- Provide the service for the client (if the service is within the provider's scope of practice). If the provider chooses to treat the medical condition on the same day as the well-child checkup, the provider must bill the treatment or appropriate level E&M code with modifier 25 to receive additional reimbursement for the office visit. Providers must bill using the appropriate ICD diagnosis code that describes the condition found. **To ensure accurate payment, bill the treatment codes and the EPSDT well-child checkup codes on separate claim forms.**
- Refer the client to an appropriate agency provider or to the client's agency-contracted managed care organization (MCO), if applicable, for further evaluation or medical treatment.

The agency's standard for coverage is that the services, treatment, or other measures must be:

- Medically necessary
- Safe and effective
- Not experimental

When a noncovered service is recommended based on an EPSDT well-child checkup, the agency evaluates the request for medical necessity based on the definition in WAC 182-500-0070 and the process in WAC 182-501-0165. To request a noncovered service, send a completed *Fax/Written Request Basic Information* form, HCA 13-756, to the address or fax listed on the form. See [Where can I download agency forms?](#) For authorization of services beyond the designated benefit limit allowed, a provider may request a limitation extension (LE). See [What is a limitation extension \(LE\)?](#)

Provider must complete referrals for additional diagnostic services and treatment of identified problems. See the appropriate billing guide for specific information.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Common referrals include:

- Mental and behavioral health services, including developmental pediatricians, autism screening, etc. See the [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#).
- Dental services. See the [Dental-Related Services Billing Guide](#).
- Medical nutrition therapy. See the [Medical Nutrition Therapy Billing Guide](#).
- Outpatient rehabilitation such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. See the [Outpatient Rehabilitation Billing Guide](#).
- Neurodevelopmental centers. See the [Neurodevelopmental Centers Billing Guide](#).
- Chiropractic services for children. See the [Chiropractic Services Billing Guide](#).
- Audiology. See the *Audiology* section in the [Physician-Related Services/Healthcare Professional Services Billing Guide](#).
- Optometry or ophthalmology. See the *Ophthalmology – vision care services* section in the [Physician-Related Services/Healthcare Professional Services Billing Guide](#) and the [Vision Hardware Program Billing Guide](#).
- Genetic counseling and genetic testing. See the *Medical genetics and genetic counseling services* section in the [Physician-Related Services/Healthcare Professional Services Billing Guide](#).

What is the periodicity schedule?

The [Periodicity Schedule](#) provides information about the agency's expectations for conducting EPSDT well-child checkups and the schedule for performing the different components and screenings for each child. The footnote references and recommendations are based on the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics [Recommendations for Preventative Pediatric Health Care](#).

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

PERIODICITY SCHEDULE						EARLY CHILDHOOD						
	AGE ¹	0 - 6 wks	2 - 3 mo	4 - 5 mo	6 - 8 mo	9 -11 mo	12 - 14 mo	15 - 17 mo	18 - 23 mo	24 -35 mo	3 y	4 y
HISTORY												
Initial/Interval	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MEASUREMENTS												
Length/Height and Weight	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Head Circumference	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Weight for Length	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Body Mass Index ²									x	x	x	
Blood Pressure ³	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	x	x	
SENSORY SCREENING												
Vision ⁴											x	x
Hearing	x ⁵	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	x
DEVELOPMENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH												
Developmental Screening ⁶					x			x	x			
Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening ⁷								x	x			
Developmental Surveillance	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	
Psychosocial/Behavioral Assessment ⁸	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tobacco, Alcohol, or Drug Use Assessment ⁹												
Depression Screening ¹⁰												
Maternal Depression Screening ¹¹	x	x	x	x								
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION ¹²	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PROCEDURES ¹³												
Newborn Blood	x ¹⁴											
Newborn Bilirubin ¹⁵	x											
Critical Congenital Heart Defect ¹⁶	x											
Immunization ¹⁷	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Anemia ¹⁸			o				x	o	o	o	o	o
Lead ¹⁹				o	o	x ²⁰	o	o	x ²⁰	o	o	
Tuberculosis ²¹	o			o		o			o	o	o	
Dyslipidemia ²²									o		o	
Sexually Transmitted Infections ²³												
HIV ²⁴												
ORAL HEALTH ²⁵												
Fluoride Varnish ²⁶			o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Fluoride Supplementation ²⁷				o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

KEY: x = to be performed o = risk assessment to be performed with appropriate action to follow, if positive
NOTE: Children in foster care may receive additional EPSDT well-child checkups. See [EPSDT and Foster Care](#).

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

PERIODICITY SCHEDULE	MIDDLE CHILDHOOD				ADOLESCENCE				
	AGE ¹ 5 y	6 y	7 - 8y	9 - 10 y	11 - 12 y	13- 14 y	15 - 16 y	17 - 18 y	19 -20 y
HISTORY									
Initial/Interval	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MEASUREMENTS									
Length/Height and Weight	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Head Circumference									
Weight for Length									
Body Mass Index ²	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Blood Pressure ³	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SENSORY SCREENING									
Vision ⁴	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	o	o
Hearing	x	x	x	x	once between 11-14		x	o	x
DEVELOPMENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH									
Developmental Screening ⁶									
Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening ⁷									
Developmental Surveillance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Psychosocial/Behavioral Assessment ⁸	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tobacco, Alcohol, or Drug Use Assessment ⁹					o	o	o	o	o
Depression Screening ¹⁰					x	x	x	x	x
Maternal Depression Screening ¹¹									
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION ¹²	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PROCEDURES ¹³									
Newborn Blood									
Newborn Bilirubin ¹⁵									
Critical Congenital Heart Defect ¹⁶									
Immunization ¹⁷	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Anemia ¹⁸	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Lead ¹⁹	o	o							
Tuberculosis ²¹	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Dyslipidemia ²²		o	o	x	o	o	o	x	o
Sexually Transmitted Infections ²³					o	o	o	o	o
HIV ²⁴					o	o	once between 15-18		o
ORAL HEALTH ²⁵									
Fluoride Varnish ²⁶	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Fluoride Supplementation ²⁷	o	o	o	o	o	o	o		
ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

KEY: x = to be performed o = risk assessment to be performed with appropriate action to follow, if positive
NOTE: Children in foster care may receive additional EPSDT well-child checkups. See [EPSDT and Foster Care](#).

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

1. If a child comes under care for the first time at any point on the schedule, or if any items are not accomplished at the suggested age, the schedule should be brought up-to-date at the earliest possible time.
2. Screen, per [Expert Committee Recommendations Regarding the Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity: Summary Report](#).
3. Blood pressure measurement in infants and children with specific risk conditions should be performed at visits before age 3 years.
4. A visual acuity screen is recommended at ages 4 and 5 years, as well as in cooperative 3-year-olds. Instrument-based screening may be used to assess risk at ages 12 and 24 months, in addition to the well visits at 3 through 5 years of age. See [Visual System Assessment in Infants, Children, and Young Adults by Pediatricians](#) and [Procedures for the Evaluation of the Visual System by Pediatricians](#).
5. Confirm initial screen was completed, verify results, and follow up, as appropriate. Newborns should be screened, per [Year 2007 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs](#).
6. See [Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening](#)
7. Screening should occur per [Identification and Evaluation of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders](#).
8. This assessment should be family centered and may include an assessment of child social-emotional health, caregiver depression, and social determinants of health. See [Promoting Optimal Development: Screening for Behavioral and Emotional Problems](#) and [Poverty and Child Health in the United States](#).
9. A recommended assessment tool is available at [The CRAFFT Screening Tool](#).
10. Recommended screening using the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ)-2 or other tools available in the GLAD-PC toolkit and the [Mental Health Screening and Assessment Tools for Primary Care](#).
11. Screening should occur per [Incorporating Recognition and Management of Perinatal and Postpartum Depression Into Pediatric Practice](#).
12. At each visit, age-appropriate physical examination is essential, with infant totally unclothed and older children undressed and suitably draped. See [Use of Chaperones During the Physical Examination of the Pediatric Patient](#).
13. These may be modified, depending on entry point into schedule and individual need.
14. Confirm initial screen was accomplished, verify results, and follow up, as appropriate. The [Recommended Uniform Newborn Screening Panel](#), as determined by The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, and state newborn screening laws/regulations ([National Newborn Screening Status Report](#)), establish the criteria for and coverage of newborn screening procedures and programs.
15. Confirm initial screening was accomplished, verify results, and follow up, as appropriate. See [Hyperbilirubinemia in the Newborn Infant \$\geq 35\$ Weeks' Gestation: An Update With Clarifications](#).
16. Screening for critical congenital heart disease using pulse oximetry should be performed in newborns, after 24 hours of age, before discharge from the hospital, per [Endorsement of Health and Human Services Recommendation for Pulse Oximetry Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease](#).

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

17. Schedules, per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Immunization Schedules](#) or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases, available on the [American Academy of Pediatrics Infectious Disease Resources webpage](#). Every visit should be an opportunity to update and complete a child's immunizations.
18. See [Diagnosis and Prevention of Iron Deficiency and Iron-Deficiency Anemia in Infants and Young Children \(0–3 Years of Age\)](#).
19. For children at risk of lead exposure, see [Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention](#).
20. Perform risk assessments or screenings as appropriate, based on universal screening requirements for patients with Medicaid or in high prevalence areas.
21. Tuberculosis testing per recommendations of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, published in the current edition of the AAP *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. Testing should be performed on recognition of high-risk factors.
22. See [Integrated Guidelines for Cardiovascular Health and Risk Reduction in Children and Adolescents](#).
23. Adolescents should be screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) per recommendations in the current edition of the AAP *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*.
24. Adolescents should be screened for HIV according to the [USPSTF recommendations](#) once between the ages of 15 and 18, making every effort to preserve confidentiality of the adolescent. Those at increased risk of HIV infection, including those who are sexually active, participate in injection drug use, or are being tested for other STIs, should be tested for HIV and reassessed annually.
25. Assess whether the child has a dental home. If no dental home is identified, perform a risk assessment using the [AAP's Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool](#) and refer to a dental home. Recommend brushing with fluoride toothpaste in the proper dosage for age. See [Maintaining and Improving the Oral Health of Young Children](#).
26. See USPSTF recommendations [Dental Caries in Children from Birth Through Age Five Years: Screening](#). Indications for fluoride use are noted in [Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting](#). Once teeth are present, fluoride varnish may be applied to all children in the primary care or dental office as follows:
 - Age 6 and younger – Three times within a 12-month period with a minimum of 110 days between applications
 - . Age 7 through 18 or residing in ALFs or nursing facilities - Two times within a 12-month period with a minimum of 170 days between applications
 - Age 7 through 20 receiving orthodontic treatment - Three times within a 12-month period during orthodontic treatment with a minimum of 110 days between applications (billed with the initial appliance placement date)
 - Age 19 and older – Once within a 12-month period
27. If primary water source is deficient in fluoride, consider oral fluoride supplementation. See [Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting](#).

EPSDT and Foster Care

What do I need to know about EPSDT for children in foster care?

The majority of children in foster care are covered by Coordinated Care of Washington (CCW). Contact CCW directly for any questions about services to meet the health care needs for managed care clients in foster care.

For children in foster care who are fee-for-service (FFS) clients, this section explains the benefits for these children and how to bill for the services.

To be sure the medical, dental and mental health needs of foster children are promptly addressed, the agency allows more extensive EPSDT benefits for these children in FFS. The agency pays providers an enhanced rate for providing well-child care for foster children and the children are allowed more frequent checkups compared to other Apple Health clients.

The agency allows EPSDT well-child checkups for foster care clients without regard to the periodicity schedule by billing procedure codes 99381-99385 and 99391-99395 with a TJ modifier.

The elements of an EPSDT well-child checkup are the same for all children. They include:

1. Initial/interval health history and a family health history
2. Measurements – age appropriate growth including length/height and weight and blood pressure
3. Sensory screening – vision and hearing*
4. Developmental/behavioral health screening*
5. Physical exam
6. Procedures, including immunizations and laboratory tests*
7. Oral health and fluoride varnish*
8. Anticipatory guidance

*These components have add-on codes that may be billed in addition to the EPSDT evaluation and management (E&M) codes when appropriate. See information about each component and the available add-on codes in the descriptions listed below this section. See [What are the billing requirements specific to EPSDT](#) for more information about billing the EPSDT E&M codes.

See [What is an EPSDT well-child checkup](#) for more information.

How do I bill EPSDT well-child checkups to receive the enhanced rate?

Bill EPSDT well-child checkups for children in foster care by billing procedure codes 99381-99385 and 99391-99395 with a TJ modifier. EPSDT well-child checkups for foster care children are not limited. They may be provided without regard to the periodicity schedule.

What is an initial health evaluation (IHE) and how is it billed?

When a child under age 18 enters out-of-home placement, the agency pays for an initial health evaluation (IHE) which must be scheduled within 72 hours by the foster parent or social worker. The IHE aims to identify:

- Immediate medical, mental health, or dental needs of the child.
- Additional health conditions that the foster parent and social worker need to know.

The IHE is not intended to be as comprehensive as an EPSDT well-child checkup. If an IHE is provided:

- Bill the appropriate evaluation and management (E&M) code (new patient codes 99201 – 99205 or established patient codes 99211–99215).
- Use ICD diagnosis code Z01.89 (encounter for other specified special examinations) as the primary diagnosis.
- Use modifier TJ.

What is included in an IHE?

See the *Foster Care Initial Health Screen* form, HCA 13-843 (see [Where can I download agency forms](#)) and the AAP [Healthy Foster Care America Health Information Form](#) for information on what should be included in the IHE.

Can I bill for both an EPSDT well-child checkup and an IHE?

The agency does not pay for an IHE with the same date of service as an EPSDT examination. The child will not require an IHE if an EPSDT well-child checkup is performed.

How often can a child in foster care have an EPSDT well-child checkup?

EPSDT well-child checkups are not limited for children in foster care. EPSDT well-child checkups are allowed after every change of placement and as often as considered necessary.

How can I identify a child in foster care placement?

The following is a screen-shot from ProviderOne. The placement code (indicated by the red arrow) may allow a provider billing certain E&M codes to receive an enhanced rate for the service.

The screenshot shows a web interface for ProviderOne. At the top, there are buttons for 'Close', 'Submit Another Inquiry', 'Medical Records' (highlighted with a red box), and 'Exit'. Below this is a 'Selection Criteria Entered:' section with the following details:

Date of Request: 08/18/2011	ProviderOne Client ID: 564532100WA
Time in Request: 07:20:08 AM PDT	Client Date of Birth:
Provider ID:	Client SSN:
From Date of Service: 08/18/2011	Client Last Name:
To Date of Service: 08/18/2011	Client First Name:

Below this is a section for 'Client Demographic Information' and 'System Response Information'.

Client Demographic Information:	System Response Information:
ProviderOne Client ID: 564532100WA	Valid Request Indicator:
Client First,Middle,Last Name: THOR T HAMMER	Reject Reason Code:
CSO/HCS: 076-MEDS	Follow-Up Action Code:
County Code: 017-King	
CSOR: 043-KING SOUTH CSO	
Date of Birth: 12/28/2003	
Gender: Male	
Language: ENG-English	
Placement: F	

A red arrow points to the 'Placement: F' field.

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

If the client’s ProviderOne eligibility inquiry screen indicates a child is associated with one of the foster care placement codes listed in the table below, the provider must use the TJ modifier along with the appropriate procedure code(s) to be paid an enhanced rate for EPSDT well-child checkups.

Placement code	Description
D	Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in foster care
F	Foster Care Placement
H	Foster Care Higher Education
P	Interstate Compact in Placement of Children’s Services
R	Relative Foster Care Placement
T	Tribal Foster Care Placement

The agency pays providers for an EPSDT well-child checkup for foster care clients without regard to the periodicity schedule when the screening exam is billed with a TJ modifier.

What are the time limits for scheduling requests for EPSDT well-child checkups for children in foster care?

Requests for EPSDT well-child checkups must be scheduled within the following time limits:

If an EPSDT well-child checkup is requested through:	Client type	Schedule within
The agency’s managed care organizations (MCOs), primary care case management (PCCM) organization, or primary care providers (PCPs)	Infants – under age 2	21 days of request
	Children – age 2 and older	Six weeks of the request
	Receiving foster care – upon placement	30 days of the request, or sooner for children age 2 and younger
Community Mental Health Center, Head Start, substance abuse provider, or Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)	Birth through age 20	14 days of the request
Providers must ensure that when medically necessary services are identified during any EPSDT well-child checkup, appropriate treatment or referrals are made.		

Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening

Is developmental screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?

Yes. Developmental screening is done using standardized screening tools which may include caregiver interview and observation. Use procedure code 96110, two units per billing claim, with a limit of 5 times from birth to age 3.

Refer to the [Developmental, caregiver/maternal depression, and youth depression screening tools](#) for examples of available standardized tools. To be reimbursed, the name of the screening tool and the score must be included in the documentation.

Is behavioral health screening part of the EPSDT well-child checkup process?

Note: Eligible clients may receive a mental health or substance abuse assessment without an EPSDT well-child checkup or referral.

Yes. Behavioral health screenings must be done using standardized screening tools or through an interview. See [EPSDT mental health/substance abuse assessment referral indicators](#) for a list of behaviors that may indicate mental health problems.

All children age 12 and older must be screened for depression. Use procedure code 96127, with up to two units per billing claim line.

Caregivers of infants age six months and younger must be screened for depression. Use procedure code 96161 under the infant's ProviderOne client ID. When billing procedure code 96161 for a fee-for-service (FFS) client, use EPA # 870001424.

Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Note: The expedited prior authorization (EPA) process is designed to eliminate the need for written/fax authorization. The intent is to establish authorization criteria and identify these criteria with specific codes, enabling the provider to use the agency's designated "EPA" number when appropriate. The billing provider must document how EPA criteria were met in the client's file and make this information available to the agency or the agency's designee upon request. See the agency's [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#) for information about entering EPA numbers on claims.

Clients age 20 and younger have access to mental health services. See the [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#) for details. However, if the client may meet [BHO Access to Care Standards](#), then a referral to the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) should be considered. Referral for assessment is based on professional judgment. See [Behavioral Health Organization Contacts](#) for a complete listing.

Screening guidelines

Mental health and substance abuse screenings are intended to identify children who are at risk for, or may have, mental health or substance abuse problems. Screenings do not result in a diagnosis. If a screen indicates a possible problem, the child is referred for an assessment where a diagnosis and plan of care are developed.

When child abuse or neglect is suspected, a report to Child Protective Services must be made, even if the child is also referred for a mental health assessment.

If an eligible client is suspected or identified through the EPSDT well-child checkup as having a mental health or substance abuse problem, providers may refer the client to a mental health or substance abuse provider and assist the client/family in making appointments and obtaining necessary treatment. This referral must be made within two weeks from the date the problem is identified, unless the problem is urgent. If the problem is urgent, a referral must be made immediately. The referring provider must follow-up to ensure the assessment was completed.

Document the need for the service in the client's records. The diagnosing or treating mental health or substance abuse provider should communicate the results of the referral back to the primary care provider.

Urgent referrals

Some behaviors, symptoms, and risk factors may signal that a child is in crisis. In these cases the referral process must be sped up so that the child may be assessed and treated promptly. An immediate referral must be made by telephone to the mental health agency whenever the child exhibits any of the following:

- Fire-setting
- Suicidal behavior or suicidal ideation
- Self-destructive behavior
- Torturing animals
- Destroying property
- Substance abuse, either in conjunction with other mental health concerns or if the child is under the age of 12 years
- Sexual acting out
- Witnessing a death or other substantial physical violence
- Experiencing sexual or physical abuse
- Out of touch with reality, delusional (psychotic decompensation)
- Imminent risk of placement in a more restrictive setting

The crisis response system should be used only if the child is a danger to himself/herself or others.

Nonurgent referral

When screening for mental health problems, use professional judgment when deciding to refer the client for further assessment of other issues, such as:

- Family issues
- Problematic peer activities
- School issues
- Somatic symptoms
- Abnormal behaviors
- Unusual feelings and thoughts
- Unusual growth and development
- Social situation problems

Children may also be referred for a mental health assessment at a parent's request. Make a referral if the child or parent sees the behavior or symptom as problematic, even if the issues seem minor or within normal range to you. Parents' and teachers' perceptions have shown to be the best predictors of mental health problems.

How are substance abuse screening and treatment provided?

Screening and brief intervention may be provided in any of the following ways:

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

A comprehensive, evidence-based, public health practice designed to identify people who are at risk for or have some level of substance use disorder which can lead to illness, injury, or other long-term morbidity or mortality. SBIRT services are provided in a wide variety of medical and community healthcare settings. Any provider who has completed the SBIRT training and provides a brief intervention or a brief intervention and referral may seek reimbursement for these services using procedure code 99408 for intervention that is less than 30 minutes. See the agency's [Physician-Related Services/Health Care Professional Services Billing Guide](#) for more details.

Washington Recovery Help Line

The Washington Recovery Help Line is the consolidated help line for substance abuse, problem gambling, and mental health. The help line provides anonymous and confidential crisis intervention and referral services for Washington State residents. Professionally trained volunteers and staff are available to provide emotional support 24 hours a day, and offer local treatment for substance abuse. To refer substance abuse cases, call the 24-hour Washington Recovery Help Line at 800-789-1511.

Developmental, caregiver/maternal depression, and youth depression screening tools

Instrument	Description	Age	96110	96127	96160	96161	Free
Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) – Third Edition	Helps parents provide information about the developmental status of their young child across five developmental areas: communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social.	21 versions: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 42, 48, 54, and 60 months of age.	X				
Australian Scale for Asperger Syndrome (ASAS)	Designed to identify behaviors and abilities indicative of Asperger’s Syndrome in children during their primary school years.	The age at which the usual pattern of behavior and abilities is most conspicuous.	X				X
Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ) Adult-AQ Adol-AQ* Child-AQ	Questionnaire which aims to investigate whether adults of average intelligence have symptoms of autism or one of the other autism spectrum conditions.	Adult-AQ 17 years and up Adol-AQ 12 – 16 years Child-AQ 4 – 11 years	X				X
Beck Youth Inventory – Second Edition BYI-II	Evaluates children’s and adolescents’ emotional and social impairment.	7 – 18 years		X			
Behavior Assessment Scale for Children – 2 nd Edition (BASC-2)	Brief, targeted forms and software for monitoring changes in behavior or emotional status.	2 – 21 years		X			
Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	Developed to assist primary care health professionals to detect whether mothers are suffering from postnatal depression.				X	X	X

*Adol = Adolescent

**Early and Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program**

Instrument	Description	Age	96110	96127	96160	96161	Free
<u>Kutcher Adolescent Depression Scale (KADS)</u>	A psychological self-rating scale developed to assess the level of depression in adolescents.	12 – 17 years		X			X
<u>Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT)</u>	A scientifically validated tool for screening children that assesses risk for autism spectrum disorder.	16 – 30 months	X				X
Patient Health Questionnaire (<u>PHQ-2</u> , <u>PHQ-9</u> , or <u>PHQ-A</u>)	Self-administered tools for assessing depression. PHQ-2 is a two-question version. PHQ-9 is a nine-question version. PHQ-A is targeted at adolescents.	PHQ-A (Adolescent) 13 – 17 years PHQ-2 or PHQ-9 (Adult) 18 – 64 years (Elderly) 65 years and up		X	X	X	X
Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)	An evidence-based method for detecting and addressing developmental and behavioral problems in children.	Birth to 7 years 11 months	X				
<u>Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC)</u>	A brief screening questionnaire that is used by pediatricians and other health professionals to improve the recognition and treatment of psychosocial problems in children.	4 – 18 years		X			X
<u>Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)</u>	The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a brief behavioral screening questionnaire about 3-16 year olds.	3 – 16 years		X			X
<u>Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorder (SCARED)</u>	A self-report screening questionnaire for anxiety disorders.	8 – 18 years		X			X
<u>Short Mood and Feeling Questionnaire (SMFQ)</u>	An instrument to be used as an indicator of depressive symptoms and not as a diagnostic tool.	8 – 18 years		X			X

Note: An “X” in a procedure code column means the provider may use this code to bill the agency. An “X” in the free column means the screening tool is available at no cost.

EPSDT mental health/substance abuse assessment referral indicators

Consider these and other symptoms/behaviors when making a referral for an assessment.

Category	Indicators for a Mental Health Assessment	
Family	problems separating physical abuse or neglect psychological abuse sexual abuse domestic violence divorce/separation chronic physical or mental illness of parent	drug using or alcoholic parent parental discord few social ties problems with siblings death of parent/sibling parent in criminal justice system
Peer activity	no confidence social isolation	fighting and bullying
Behaviors	temper tantrums fire setting stealing tics sexually acting out lying substance abuse destroys property aggressive	over activity in trouble with law impulsive attachment problems in infants overly compliant to passive defiant running away truancy
School	school failure school refusal	absenteeism or truancy
Feelings	anxiety or nervousness feeling depressed low self-esteem	fearful suicidal
Thoughts	delusions hallucinations	incoherence self-destructive thoughts
Somatic symptoms	trouble sleeping sleepwalking night terrors	enuresis encopresis eating disorder
Social	lack of housing frequent moves financial problems	sexual abuse foster care history of detention
Growth and Development	slow weight gain nonorganic failure to thrive mentally retarded learning disabilities	language delay attention problems speech problems

Derived from a World Health Organization, primary care child oriented classification system. Haeres, S.M., Leaf, P.J., Leventhal, J.M., Forsyth, B. and Speechley, K.N. (1992), Identification and management of psychosocial and developmental problems in community-based. Primary care pediatric practices. *Pediatrics*, 89(3), 480 - 485.

The indicators listed above may be elicited from caregivers and children through interviews described in professional references (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics: [Guidelines for Child Health Supervision](#); and the Region X Nursing Network: [Prenatal and Child Health Screening and Assessment Manual](#)). It may be appropriate to interview the child separate from the caregiver beginning at age eight years.

Screening infants and toddlers for mental health problems is an emerging science. Based on professional judgment, referral is appropriate when there are concerns that a family and social environment do not support the infant's mental wellness.

Children with behaviors not listed on the checklist should also be referred for mental health services, if the parent desires. It is important to remember that if the child or parent sees the behavior or symptom as problematic, make a referral, even if the issues seem minor or within normal range to you. Parents' and teachers' perceptions have been shown to be the best predictors of mental health problems.

Immunizations

Immunizations covered by the EPSDT program are listed in the [Professional Administered Drug Fee Schedule](#). For vaccines that are available at no cost from the Department of Health (DOH) through the Universal Vaccine Distribution program and the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program for children age 18 and younger, the agency pays only for the administration of the vaccine and not for the vaccines themselves. These vaccines are identified in the *Comments* column of the Fee Schedule as free from DOH. For more information on the VFC program, see the [VFC](#) webpage.

You must bill for the administration of the vaccine and for the cost of the vaccine itself as explained in this section.

How do I bill for vaccines when clients are age 19 and 20?

- Bill the agency for the cost of the vaccine itself by reporting the procedure code for the vaccine given. DO NOT use modifier SL with any of the vaccines for clients age 19 and 20, regardless of whether or not the vaccine is available for free from DOH. The agency pays for the vaccine using the agency's maximum allowable fee schedule.
- Bill for the administration of the vaccine using procedure codes 90471 (first vaccine) and 90472 (additional vaccine). Payment is limited to one unit of procedure code 90471 and one unit of procedure code 90472.
- Providers must bill procedure codes 90471 and 90472 on the same claim as the procedure code for the vaccine.
- See the [Professional Administered Drug Fee Schedule](#) for vaccine codes.

What vaccines are free from the Department of Health (DOH) for clients age 18 and younger?

No-cost immunizations from DOH are available for clients age 18 and younger. See the [Professional Administered Drug Fee Schedule](#) for a list of immunizations that are free from DOH. Therefore, the agency pays only for administering the vaccine.

- In a nonfacility setting:
 - ✓ Bill for the administration by reporting the procedure code for the vaccine given with modifier SL (e.g. 90707 SL). The agency pays for the administration for those vaccines that are free from DOH and are billed with modifier SL (e.g., 90707 SL).
 - ✓ DO NOT bill procedure codes 90471-90472 for the administration.
- To bill for the administration of vaccines in an outpatient hospital or hospital-based clinic setting, use:
 - ✓ An electronic institutional claim
 - ✓ Procedure codes 90471-90472
 - ✓ The hospital's outpatient provider NPI number
- To bill for a vaccine in an outpatient hospital or hospital-based clinic setting, use:
 - ✓ An electronic institutional claim
 - ✓ An appropriate procedure code.
 - ✓ The hospital's outpatient provider NPI number.
- If a vaccine is available free from DOH (see the [Professional Administered Drug Fee Schedule](#)), then the agency will:
 - ✓ Deny the vaccine claim line.
 - ✓ Combine vaccine payment with the payment for the administration of the vaccine.

General Authorization

Authorization is the agency's approval for certain medical services, equipment, or supplies, before the services are provided to clients, as a precondition for provider reimbursement. **Prior Authorization (PA) and limitation extensions (LE) are forms of authorization.**

What is prior authorization (PA)?

Prior authorization (PA) is the agency or its designee's approval for certain medical services, equipment, or supplies, before the services are provided to clients. When PA is applicable, it is a precondition for provider reimbursement.

What is a limitation extension (LE)?

The agency limits the amount, frequency, or duration of certain services and reimburses up to the stated limit without requiring PA. The agency requires a provider to request PA for a limitation extension (LE) in order to exceed the stated limits.

See [Resources Available](#) for the fax number and specific information (including forms) that must accompany the request for LE.

The agency evaluates requests for LE under the provisions of WAC [182-501-0169](#).

How do I obtain written authorization?

Send your request to the agency's Authorization Services Office (see [Resources Available](#)). For more information on requesting authorization, see the agency's [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#).

Billing

Effective for claims billed on and after October 1, 2016

All claims must be submitted electronically to the agency, except under limited circumstances.

For more information about this policy change, see [Paperless Billing at HCA](#).

For providers approved to bill paper claims, see the agency's [Paper Claim Billing Resource](#).

Providers must follow the agency's billing requirements in the [ProviderOne Billing and Resource Guide](#). These billing requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Time limits for submitting and resubmitting claims and adjustments;
- What fee to bill the agency for eligible clients;
- When providers may bill a client;
- How to bill for services provided to primary care case management (PCCM) clients;
- Billing for clients eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid;
- Third-party liability; and
- Record-keeping requirements.

How do I bill claims electronically?

Instructions on how to bill Direct Data Entry (DDE) claims can be found on the agency's [Billers and Providers](#) webpage, under [Webinars](#).

For information about billing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) claims, see the ProviderOne 5010 companion guides on the [HIPAA Electronic Data Interchange \(EDI\)](#) webpage.

What are the billing requirements specific to EPSDT?

Use the appropriate diagnosis code when billing any EPSDT well-child checkup service, procedure codes 99381-99395 (e.g., Z00.129 - Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings).

Bill for services such as laboratory work, hearing tests, x-rays, or immunization administration using the appropriate procedure code(s), along with the EPSDT well-child checkup (procedure codes 99381 - 99395) on the same claim.

Note: When physicians and ARNPs identify physical or mental health problems, or both, during an EPSDT well-child checkup, the provider may treat the client or refer the client to another provider. Physicians and ARNPs are not limited to the procedure codes listed within this billing guide. They may also use the agency's [Physician-Related Services/Health Care Professional Services Billing Guide](#) as necessary. Any office, laboratory, radiology, immunization, or other procedure rendered as part of follow-up treatment must be billed on a separate professional claim from the EPSDT well-child checkup.

For information on billing for evidence-based medicine (EBM), see the [Mental Health Services Billing Guide](#).