



## HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER



HAWAII'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
HAWAII'S CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAP

**EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT**



**EPSDT**

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment**  
**A Comprehensive Medicaid Health Plan for Children**

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone (V/TTY): (808) 949-2922 Toll Free (V/TTY): 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [Info@HawaiiDisabilityRights.org](mailto:Info@HawaiiDisabilityRights.org) Website: [www.HawaiiDisabilityRights.org](http://www.HawaiiDisabilityRights.org)

# What is **EPSDT**?

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) service is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21.

EPSDT was authorized as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA 89) legislation and includes periodic screening, vision, dental, and hearing services. In addition, section 1905(r)(5) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires that any medically necessary health care service listed at section 1905(a) be provided to an EPSDT recipient even if the service is not available under the State's Medicaid plan to the rest of the Medicaid population.

**The EPSDT program consists of two mutually supportive operational components:**

**Assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources**

**&**

**Helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use these resources.**

These components enable Medicaid agencies to manage a comprehensive child health program of prevention and treatment, to seek out eligible individuals and inform them of the benefits of prevention and the health services and assistance available, and to help them and their families use health resources, including their own talents and knowledge, effectively and efficiently.

It also enables the agencies to assess a child's health needs through initial and periodic examinations and evaluations, and assure that the health problems found are diagnosed and treated early, before they become more complex and their treatment more costly.



## How Does **EPSDT** Work?

### **Periodicity Schedule**

Screening, Vision, and Hearing services must be provided at intervals that meet reasonable standards of medical practice. States must consult with recognized medical organizations involved in child health care in developing reasonable standards.

Dental services must be provided at intervals determined to meet reasonable standards of dental practice. States must consult with recognized dental organizations involved in child health care to establish those intervals. A direct dental referral is required for every child in accordance with each State's periodicity schedule and at other intervals as medically necessary. The periodicity schedule for other EPSDT services may not govern the schedule for dental services. It is expected that older children may require dental services more frequently than physical examinations.



**The EPSDT benefit, in accordance with section 1905(r) of the Act, must include the following services:**

## **SCREENING SERVICES**

- **Comprehensive health and developmental history** (including assessment of both physical and mental health development);
- **Comprehensive unclothed physical exam;**
- **Appropriate immunizations** (according to the schedule established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for pediatric vaccines);
- **Laboratory tests** - Identify as statewide screening requirements the minimum laboratory tests or analyses to be performed by medical providers for particular age or population groups; and,
- **Lead Toxicity Screening** - All children are considered at risk and must be screened for lead poisoning. EPSDT requires that all children receive a screening blood lead test at 12 months and 24 months of age. Children between the ages of 36 months and 72 months of age must receive a screening blood lead test if they have not been previously screened for lead poisoning.

A blood lead test must be used when screening Medicaid-eligible children. A blood lead test result equal to or greater than 10 ug/dl obtained by capillary specimen (finger stick) must be confirmed using a venous blood sample.

At this time, States may not adopt a statewide plan for screening children for lead poisoning that does not require lead screening for all Medicaid-eligible children.

## **DIAGNOSIS**

When a screening examination indicates the need for further evaluation of an individual's health, diagnostic services must be provided. A referral should be made without delay and follow-up to make sure that the recipient receives a complete diagnostic evaluation. If the recipient is receiving care from a continuing care provider, diagnosis may be part of the screening and examination process.

## **TREATMENT**

Health care must be made available for treatment or other measures to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses or conditions discovered by the screening services.

## **SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT INCLUDE:**

**Health Education** - Health education is a required component of screening services and includes anticipatory guidance. At the outset, the physical and/or dental screening provides the initial context for providing health education. Health education and counseling to both parents (or guardians) and children is required and is designed to assist in understanding what to expect in terms of a child's development and to provide information about the benefits of healthy lifestyles and practices as well as accident and disease prevention.

**Vision Services** - At a minimum, services must include diagnosis and treatment for defects in vision, including eyeglasses. Vision services must be provided according to a distinct periodicity schedule developed by the State and at other intervals as medically necessary.

**Dental Services** - At a minimum, services must include relief of pain and infections, restoration of teeth and maintenance of dental health. Dental services may not be limited to emergency services. Although an oral screening may be part of a physical examination, it does not substitute for examination through direct referral to a dentist. A direct dental referral is required for every child in accordance with the periodicity schedule developed by the state and at other intervals as medically necessary.

The law as amended by OBRA 1989 requires that dental services (including initial direct referral to a dentist) conform to the state periodicity schedule which must be established after consultation with recognized dental organizations involved in child health care.

**Hearing Services** - At a minimum, include diagnosis and treatment for defects in hearing, including hearing aids.

**Other Necessary Health Care** - Includes other necessary health care, diagnosis services, treatment, and other measure described in section 1905(a) of the Act to correct or ameliorate defects, and physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the screening services.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention** - Screening for lead poisoning is a required component of an EPSDT screen, including a blood lead test for all Medicaid-eligible children at 12- and 24-months of age. In addition, children over the age of 24 months, up to 72 months of age, should receive a screening blood lead test if there is no record of a previous test. Any additional diagnostic and treatment services determined to be medically necessary must also be provided to a child diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level.

# Required Services Under **EPSDT**

- Case Management Services
- Chiropractic Services
- Clinic Services
- Dental Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Emergency Hospital Services
- Family Planning Services
- Home and Community Based Services
- Home Health Care Services
- Hospice Care
- Inpatient Hospital Care
- Inpatient Psychiatric Services
- Intermediate Care Facility Services
- Laboratories and X-ray Services
- Nurse Midwife Services
- Nursing Facility Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometrist Services
- Outpatient Hospital Care
- Pediatric and Family Nurse Practitioner Services



- Personal Care Services
- Physical Therapy
- Physician's Services
- Podiatrist Services
- Prenatal Care
- Prescribed Drugs
- Preventative Services
- Private Duty Nursing
- Prosthetic Devices
- Rehabilitative Services
- Respiratory Services
- Rural Health Clinic Services
- Screening Services
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Speech, Language and Hearing Therapy
- Transportation Services
- Vaccines



## How Do Children and Families Get **EPSDT Services?**

To obtain EPSDT services, an individual must be eligible for **Medicaid**. If you don't know if you are eligible for Medicaid, or to apply for Medicaid, contact your nearest **MedQUEST Eligibility Office**:

LOCATIONS	PHONE & FAX NUMBERS
<b>Oahu Applications Section</b> 801 Dillingham Blvd, 3rd. Flr, Honolulu, HI 96817	Phone 587-3521 Fax 587-3543
<b>Kapolei Unit</b> - Kakuhihewa State Office Bldg. 601 Kamokila Blvd, Rm 415, Kapolei, HI 96707	Phone 692-7364 Fax 692-7379
<b>East Hawaii Section</b> 88 Kanoelehua Ave, Rm 107, Hilo, HI 96720	Phone 933-0339 Fax 933-0344
<b>West Hawaii Section</b> - Lanihau Professional Center 75-5591 Palani Rd, Ste 3004, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740	Phone 327-4970 Fax 327- 4975
<b>Lanai Unit</b> 730 Lanai Ave, Lanai City, HI 96763	Phone 565-7102 Fax 565-6460
<b>Maui Section</b> 210 Imi Kala Street, Suite 101, Wailuku, HI 96793	Phone 243-5780 Fax 243-5788
<b>Molokai Unit</b> - State Civic Center 65 Makaena St, Rm 110, Kaunakakai, HI 96748	Phone 553-1758 Fax 553-3833
<b>Kauai Unit</b> 4473 Pahee St, Ste A, Lihue, HI 96766	Phone 241-3575 Fax 241-3583

Individuals enrolled in **Hawaii QUEST** or **QUEST-Net** get medical (and **EPSDT**) services through their health plans, and dental services from dentists who treat Medicaid patients.

Individuals enrolled in the **Medicaid Fee-For-Service** program get medical and dental (and **EPSDT**) services from doctors and dentists who treat Medicaid patients.

### FOR STATE ASSISTANCE WITH:

- More information
- Help scheduling an appointment
- Language or ASL interpreter
- Transportation assistance

**CALL: 524-3370** (*Oahu*), **OR: 1-800-316-8005** (*free from the Neighbor Islands*)

**WERE YOU DENIED EPSDT? DO YOU NEED MORE HELP?**

CALL THE:

**HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

**1-800-882-1057 (V/TTY)**



# HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

is

Hawaii's Protection and Advocacy System for People with Disabilities,  
as established in Federal law and designated by Executive Order.

HDRC protects and promotes the human, civil and legal rights  
of people with disabilities  
through the provision of information and advocacy.



**For more information  
or to obtain this publication in an alternate format,  
please email, telephone, write or visit:**

---

## HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone (V/TTY): (808) 949-2922 Toll Free (V/TTY): 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [Info@HawaiiDisabilityRights.org](mailto:Info@HawaiiDisabilityRights.org) Website: [www.HawaiiDisabilityRights.org](http://www.HawaiiDisabilityRights.org)

DECEMBER 2015