



Medi-Cal Services for Children: “Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment”

Children under 21 with full Medi-Cal receive services for physical and mental health conditions through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Importantly, EPSDT covers:

- PREVENTION and SCREENING services to identify problems early
- Necessary treatment services

Where can my children get services from EPSDT?

Your children’s Medi-Cal managed care plan provides EPSDT services, including referrals and coverage for outside specialists.

If your child is not in a managed care plan, your child still can access EPSDT services. You can ask your Medi-Cal County Worker or contact your local Child Health and Disability Prevention Program office: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

For additional help, contact the Health Consumer Alliance (HCA). HCA provides free and confidential legal assistance to health care consumers in California: **1.888.805.3536**

Are dental and mental health services provided under EPSDT?

Yes. Here are the services and how to get them:

- **Dental services:** Includes cleanings, braces, and fillings.

For more information about dental EPSDT services, call **1.800.423.0507** or visit <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/WSI/Prov.jsp?fname=ProvEPSDT>.

- **Specialty Mental Health Services:** Includes mental health medication and treatment, psychiatric hospital services, and mental health services provided at home or in the community. You can get these services through the county mental health department. Your child’s mental health provider must first decide they are medically necessary.

For more information about Specialty Mental Health Services in your county, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/mh/Pages/ProgramsforChildrenandYouth.aspx>.

For contact information for your County Mental Health Department, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/MHPContactList.aspx>.

What other Medi-Cal programs provide special services to children under 21?

■ **Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP):**

For children who do not qualify for “full” Medi-Cal, this program provides physical exams, immunizations, lab tests, and oral, vision, hearing, and behavioral screenings.

For contact information for your local CHDP office, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

For a brochure about the CHDP program, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/InfoBrochure.aspx>.

If you have questions about “public charge,” please contact HCA (1.888.805.3536) and visit our website, www.healthconsumer.org, which provides consumer brochures, such as “Is it Safe to Use Medi-Cal?”

- **Minor Consent Program:** Provides services related to sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy-related issues, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling, and outpatient mental health treatment and counseling. Children do not need a parent’s consent. The child must visit the county’s social services agency to apply. No income or immigration status information is required.

- **California Children’s Services (CCS):** Offers medical diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children with certain chronic medical conditions. Children qualify if out-of-pocket medical expenses are expected to be more than 20 percent of your family’s adjusted gross income or your family income is under \$40,000.

For more information about California Children’s Services in your county, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/ProgramOverview.aspx>.

For contact information for your CCS office, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

For contact information for your county’s social services agency, go to <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.

If you have questions about these programs and services, contact the Department of Health Care Services at **1.888.452.8609**.

More questions?

Contact HCA for free and confidential information. If you call HCA’s statewide toll-free number (**1.888.805.3536**), you will be connected automatically to the local health consumer center in your area.