



BlueCross BlueShield
of New Mexico



EPSDT Insights: Improving Health Outcomes for Children and Adolescents

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment is designed to address the physical, mental and developmental health of children under 21 years of age who are enrolled in Medicaid. At the core of EPSDT is the well child visit, where the goal of EPSDT is to discover and treat childhood health conditions before they become serious or disabling.

In New Mexico, these screening visits are called the “tot to teen healthcheck.”² These “health-checks” should be occurring from infancy through 20 years old. They should be regularly scheduled check-ups to help the child’s primary care provider identify any problems early and assist with a treatment plan for the child. Following the [Bright Futures / American Academy of Pediatrics Periodicity Schedule](#) of well child visits and screenings¹, providers can ensure that infants, children and adolescents are receiving the full benefit of their comprehensive health care coverage.

EPSDT well child visits should include:

- Comprehensive health & developmental history
- Comprehensive physical examination
- Assessment of physical, emotional & developmental health
- Immunizations appropriate to age & health history
- Laboratory tests
- Assessment of mental/behavioral health
- Assessment of blood pressure beginning at age 3
- Assessment of mouth, oral cavity & teeth, including referral to a dentist
- Assessment of nutritional status
- Assessment of vision, including referrals
- Assessment of hearing, including referrals
- Assessment of overall health, including referrals
- Health education (also called anticipatory guidance)
- Family planning services
- Assessment of safety (use of booster, car seats, access to firearms)

EPSDT services include:

- Preventive Care Screenings
- Diagnosis and Treatment
- Personal Care Services
- Home Health Aide Services
- Private Duty Nursing (RN, LPN)
- Early Intervention Services
- Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy
- Case Management
- Behavioral/Mental Health Services
- Specialty Care
- Vision Services
- Hearing Services
- Dental Services
- Transportation, Travel and Scheduling Assistance

Required EPSDT Codes

When billing an EPSDT visit, use the appropriate well-child CPT code.

All associated screening and lab codes must be used to reflect provider participation in the EPSDT Program.

Well-child visit: 99381-99385 (new patients), 99391-99395 (established patients)



Screening Type	Codes	Frequency
Anemia screening	85018 - Blood count; hemoglobin	Required at 12 months old. Risk assessment - inquiry related to menstrual cycle of adolescent females.
Blood lead screening	83655	At age 12 and 24 months old; or once between 24-72 months old if they have no record of ever being tested .
Dyslipidemia screening	80061 - Lipid panel (includes total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein [HDL] cholesterol, and triglycerides)	Once between 9 and 11 years old and once between 17 and 20 years old.
Visual acuity screening	99173 - Quantitative bilateral visual acuity exam 99174 - Instrument-based ocular screening (eg, photoscreening, automated-refraction), bilateral, with remote-analysis and report 99177 - Instrument-based ocular screening (e.g., photoscreening, automated-refraction), bilateral; with on-site analysis	Required at ages 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 15 years old. Photoscreening codes are appropriate through age 5 years or if medically necessary due to developmental or other medical conditions.
Hearing screening	92551 - screening test, pure tone, air only 92552 - pure tone audiometry (threshold), air only 92587 - Distortion product evoked otoacoustic emissions; limited evaluation (to confirm the presence or absence of hearing disorder, 3-6 frequencies) or transient evoked otoacoustic emissions, with interpretation and report	Required at ages 4, 5, 6, 8,10, between 11-14, between 15-17 and between 18-20 years old
Structured autism screening	96110 - with U1 modifier	Required at age 18 months and 24 months old using a validated screening tool .
Structured developmental screening	96110	Required between 9 and 11 months old, again at 18 months old and at 30 months old using a validated screening tool .
Maternal Depression Screening	96161	Required by 1 month old and at 2, 4 and 6 months old. Screening tool .
Tobacco, alcohol or drug use assessment	96160	Required for patients ages 11-20 years old. Screening tool .
Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening	96127	Required for newborn up to 21 years old, every EPSDT visit. Screening tool .
Depression and suicide risk screening	96127 - with diagnosis code Z13.31 (Encounter for screening for depression)	Required annually for ages 12-21 years old. Screening tool .
Application of topical fluoride varnish	99188	Recommended to be performed by PCP at first tooth eruption and every 3-6 months until dental home established. Utilize a Dental Risk Assessment Tool for patients 6-8 months of age and again between the ages of 9-11 months of age. Referral to Dental Home indicated at 1 year.
HIV screening	86701 - Antibody; HIV-1 86703 - Antibody: HIV-1 and HIV-2; single assay	Required once between the ages of 15 and 21 years old
Sexually Transmitted Infections	87491 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); C trachomatis, amplified probe technique 87591 - Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); N gonorrhoeae, amplified probe technique	STI screenings to be performed annually for sexually active adolescents.

Immunizations

Well visits (EPSDTs) are an excellent time to ensure your patient's immunizations are up to date in accordance with the [CDC Child and Adolescent Vaccine Schedule](#). Use [NMSIIS](#) as a guide for what shots your patient needs. Offer immunizations at all visits, including sick visits, to ensure your patients are caught up on needed shots. A minor illness or cold is not a contraindication to a child receiving vaccines. The Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has free resources for you and parents <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center>.

Suspect problems with development

Early Intervention Services are at no-cost to the infant/toddler, and the program is funded by the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department's Family Infant Toddler Program that provides services to infants and toddlers, ages birth to three. When babies do not get what their growing brains need to thrive, they do not develop as they should. This leads to life-long developmental, educational, social and health challenges.

Criteria for Early Intervention Services in NM

- Infants/toddlers who have or are at risk for a developmental delay or health concerns.
- Infants/toddlers with an established condition such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, hearing loss, vision loss, etc.
- Infants/toddlers with a medical risk such as prematurity (less than a 32-week gestation), low birth weight, chronic ear infections, cleft lip and palate etc.
- Infants/toddlers with social risk factors or concerns

Early Intervention Services

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Family Service Coordination
- Social Work
- Developmental Instruction
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Behavioral Health
- Feeding & Nutrition
- Support and Services
- Activities to develop learning skills
- Activities to help social and emotional development
- Transition into school or other services as needed at age 3 or when graduating from the program

Call **1-877-696-1472** to refer a infant/toddler to **Early Intervention Services**.

You may also refer directly to an Early Intervention location. See provider list by county. [Family Infant Toddler Providers in New Mexico](#).

Opportunities for EPSDT improvement

- Educate staff to schedule visits within the AAP/Bright Futures guideline timeframes.
- Contact parents to schedule their child's well-child exam.
- Assess child's need for additional EPSDT services and refer for treatment as needed.
- Take the opportunity to catch up on EPSDT screenings during a sick visit.
- Schedule next EPSDT visit during sick visits.
- Well visit/EPSDT Screenings, including immunizations, MUST be completed during a sports physical visit.
- Check immunizations with NMSIIS and offer shots at every visit, including sick visits.

If you would like more information about any member programs, please call **Health Services** at **877-232-5518** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. After business hours, please leave a message and our staff will return your call.

If you have any questions, please contact **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico Provider Customer Service** at **1-800-693-0663** Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To learn more about EPSDT efforts, please call the **QI Department** at **855-699-0042** or by emailing qualityinquiry@bcbsnm.com.

References

1. **American Academy of Pediatrics**. (2023, April). Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care. Preventive Care/Periodicity Schedule. https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf
2. **New Mexico Human Services Department**. (2014, January 1). 8.320.2.10; GENERAL EPSDT SCREENINGS AND REFERRALS. 8.320.2 NMAC. <https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title08/08.320.0002.html>