

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

EPSDT is a special health care program for children and youth. It makes sure they get the right preventive, dental, behavioral health, developmental and specialty services. With EPSDT, any medically necessary health care service is covered. A services may be covered even if it is not a [Health First Colorado benefit](#).

You can get EPSDT services if you are 20 years old or younger. You are automatically enrolled and all Health First Colorado providers can offer the EPSDT services.

- Children 18 years old and younger can get EPSDT with no co-pay for any covered service.
- Adults 19 and 20 years old can get EPSDT, but may have a small co-pay for some services.
- Children in Department of Social and Human Services custody can get ESPDT with no co-pay if they are 18 or younger. They may have some co-pays if they are 19 or 20.

EPSDT stands for:

Early: Find and assess problems early

Periodic: Check children's health at several ages

Screening: Check physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision and other health areas

Diagnostic: Do follow-up tests when a health risk or problem is found

Treatment: Correct, reduce or control health problems

Under EPSDT, children and youth can get all medically necessary care, such as:

- Well-child visit and teen check-up
- Developmental evaluation
- Behavioral evaluation
- Immunizations (shots) and vaccines
- Lab tests, including lead poisoning testing
- Health and preventive education
- Vision services
- Dental services
- Hearing services

Well-child check-ups

Well-child check-ups make sure your child or teen is growing up healthy. The provider can identify physical and behavioral health risks early and correct, reduce or control health problems. Your child also gets needed shots, vaccines and screenings at the right ages. Well-child check ups are more comprehensive than sports physicals.

Your child should get well-child check-ups at these ages:

- 2-4 days after birth
- 1 month
- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 9 months
- 12 months
- 15 months
- 18 months
- 24 months
- 30 months
- Once a year from ages 3-20

Well-child check-ups include:

- A comprehensive history and head-to-toe physical exam
- Age-appropriate shots and vaccines (Colorado follows the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Periodicity schedule))
- Lab tests, including lead poisoning testing
- Health education
- Vision and hearing screening
- Oral health screening
- Behavioral health assessment

Lead poisoning testing

All children who qualify for [Health First Colorado](#) must get lead poisoning screening at 12 and 24 months or between the ages of 36 and 72 months if they were not tested earlier.

Dental check-up

By age 1, or when your child gets a first tooth, your child needs regular dental health check-ups every 6 months and 2 cleanings a year. Your child can get dental services such as office visits, teeth cleanings, fluoride treatment, dental sealants, space maintainers, oral examination, X-rays, dental fillings, crowns, oral surgery procedures, extractions, root canal treatment, gum treatment and dentures (false teeth).

Diagnosis and treatment

Your child will get medically necessary health care services to treat any mental or physical diagnosis. This is true even if the service isn't covered or has service limits. If there is a service limit or the service is not covered, your provider must ask Health First Colorado for the medically necessary service.

EPSDT cannot override things like provider licensing or prior authorization requirements. Health First Colorado will read the medical necessity request and approve or deny it.

EPSDT medical necessity does **not** include:

- Treatments that are untested or still being tested
- Services or items not generally accepted as effective, services outside the normal course and length of treatment, or services that don't have clinical guidelines
- Services for caregiver or provider convenience

EPSDT does not cover services such as in-home support services, home modifications and respite care. If you need extra services for your child who has special needs, update the disability information in your application at [Colorado.gov/PEAK](https://www.colorado.gov/PEAK) to apply for these services. Or for help, contact a [Community Centered Board](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/community-centered-boards) at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/community-centered-boards>.

Healthy Communities Family Health Coordinators

Healthy Communities Family Health Coordinators help pregnant women and children ages 20 and younger get services they need. Your Family Health Coordinator can help:

- Explain the services
- Find providers
- Coordinate services for you
- Tell you about and connect you to other community services such as food banks, housing agencies, child care, Head Start, Health Care Program for Children with Special Healthcare Needs (HCP), and Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Family Health Coordinators **cannot**:

- Decide or approve Health First Colorado or Child Health Plan Plus coverage
- Help you with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Cash Assistance programs

To apply for these programs, go to [Colorado.gov/PEAK](https://www.colorado.gov/PEAK).

To find your local Family Health Coordinator, go to [Colorado.gov/hcpf/healthy-communities](https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/healthy-communities). Or call the [Health First Colorado](https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com) Member Contact Center at **1-800-221-3943** (TDD 1-800-659-2656).

Child Mental Health Treatment Act (CMHTA)

The Child Mental Health Treatment Act (CMHTA), also known as HB-1116 and SB-260, is a treatment resource for Colorado children and families. The Act allows families to access community, residential, and transitional treatment services for their child without requiring a dependency and neglect action, when there is no child abuse or neglect. To be eligible, a child must have a mental illness, be under the age of 18, and be at risk of out-of-home placement or at risk of further involvement with a county department of human/social services. The Act applies to both Medicaid eligible and non-Medicaid eligible children, although the application and payment processes differ. Local and State-level appeal processes are available if services are denied, and for local interagency disputes.

Non-Medicaid eligible children apply through the local Community Mental Health Center (CMHC). If the CMHC determines that residential treatment is needed, the family must apply for disability benefits through their local Social Security office. The residential treatment costs for non-Medicaid eligible children are covered through private insurance, if available; a parental fee based on the Colorado Child Support Guidelines; Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits; Medicaid; and CMHTA funds when needed. If the CMHC determines that community based treatment is needed, costs are covered by the Act and a parental fee not to exceed 50% of the residential fee. Families of non-Medicaid eligible children should contact their local CMHC for more information or to apply for services under the Act. The links at the bottom and side of the page also contain information about this program.

Families of Medicaid eligible children apply for residential treatment through their Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). The BHO is responsible for residential treatment costs for Medicaid eligible children determined to require this level of care. Families of Medicaid eligible children should contact their local BHO for more information or to apply for this program. The BHO phone number is located on the back of the child's Medicaid card.

Transition services provided to children served through the Act includes case management and post-discharge services provided by a CMHC to children admitted to a residential facility, in collaboration with families, community supports and agencies, and the residential facility. Community-Based services includes, but is not limited to, therapeutic foster care, intensive in-home treatment, intensive case management, and day treatment. Families interested in accessing these services should discuss this with the CMHTA liaison at their local CMHC.

For additional questions or assistance regarding the Child Mental Health Treatment Act, please contact the CMHTA Program Manager, Andrew Gabor at (303) 866-7422 or andrew.gabor@state.co.us.

