



Department of Medical Assistance Services  
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
[www.dmas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov)

# Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment EPSDT Program Fact Sheet

## What is EPSDT?

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Services (EPSDT) is a comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21. EPSDT includes periodic screening, vision, dental and hearing services. In addition, under the Social Security Act Section 1905(r)(5), states are required to provide any medically necessary health care services listed at section 1905 (a) of the Social Security Act to correct and ameliorate physical and mental conditions even if the service is not included under the state's Medicaid plan.

Virginia's EPSDT program goals are to keep children as healthy as possible by:

- Assuring that health and developmental concerns are diagnosed as early as possible,
- Assuring that treatment is provided before problems become complex, and
- Assuring that medically justified services are provided to treat or correct identified problems

## Who are the eligible Virginians?

- Children under the age of 21 who receive Medicaid through Medicaid/FAMIS Plus or a MCO are eligible to receive the full scope of Medicaid/EPSDT services
- FAMIS children who are not enrolled with a Managed Care Organization
- MCO enrolled FAMIS children receive well child services through their MCO but are not eligible for the full scope of EPSDT treatment

## EPSDT screenings are conducted by physicians or certified nurse practitioners and can occur during the following:

- Periodic Screening – Check up that should occur at regular intervals. Virginia uses the American Academy of Pediatrics and Bright Futures guidelines to develop the Virginia EPSDT periodicity schedule.

- Inter-periodic Screening – unscheduled check-up or problem focused assessment that can happen at anytime because of illness or a change in condition. Any caregiver or professional who interacts with the EPSDT enrollee may request the screening.

**What are the required components in EPSDT screenings?**

- Comprehensive unclothed physical exam
- Patient and family medical history
- Developmental Screening
- Preventive laboratory services including
  - Mandatory Lead testing at 12 months and 24 months
- Age appropriate Immunizations
- Referral to a dentist at age 1
- Age appropriate anticipatory guidance/health counseling
- Referrals for medically necessary health and mental health treatment

**All requests for EPSDT treatment services must:**

- Be deemed medically necessary to correct or ameliorate a health or mental health conditions
- The need for specialist referral or treatment must be documented by a physician
- Services that are considered experimental or investigational are not covered

**EPSDT Specialized Services are medically necessary treatment services that are not a routinely covered service through Virginia Medicaid. All EPSDT “specialized services” must be a service that is allowed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The allowable treatment services are defined in the United States Code in 42 U.S.C. sec 1396d (r) (5)**

**The most frequently provided EPSDT specialized services are:**

- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Technology
- Personal Care
- Private Duty Nursing
- Behavioral Therapy
- Medical Formula and Medical Nutritional Supplements
- Specialized Residential Behavioral Therapy and Residential Treatment
- Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Services