

NC Family to Family Health Information Center

"A beacon for families of children with special health care needs."

NC Family to Family Health Information Center
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Fact Sheet

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Public Health Programs 1 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) and Health Check

Health Check is the N.C. Medicaid program of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment. Health Check services are covered free of charge for eligible Medicaid recipients from birth through age 20 and include:

- Regular medical check-ups. Check ups prevent illness and find problems early.
- Dental services. Your child should go to the dentist every six months.
- Mental health services.
- Rehabilitative services for children with disabilities.
- In-home nursing, personal care, therapy and medical equipment.
- Any other medical or remedial care needed to reduce your child's disability, improve or maintain his/her condition, or restore his/her functioning.

With Health Check, your child should have regular screening medical exams as follows:

Within 1st month	9 or 15 months	3 years	9 years
2 months	12 months	4 years	12 years
4 months	18 months	5 years	15 years
6 months	2 years	6 years	18 years

The Health Check medical screening exam should include:

- A health history and physical exam.
- Measuring height and weight.
- Check on developmental level and mental health.
- Immunizations.
- Other tests, including tuberculosis and lead poisoning.
- Health education.

If your child needs to have exams on a different schedule, the visits are still covered.

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Public Health Programs 1

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) and Health Check

Health Check covers most of the treatments a child needs to stay as healthy as possible. This includes some services that Medicaid does not provide for adults. Health Check services do not have many of the restrictions that the **Community Alternatives Programs waiver programs (CAP waivers)** have, such as waiting lists or upper limits on the total cost of treatment. The treatment services for each child will be determined by the child's individual needs. To be covered by Medicaid, many Health Check services must be prescribed by your doctor or another licensed clinician. Prior approval from the N.C. Medicaid agency, the Division of Medical Assistance (or **DMA**), may be needed for some treatment services. Health Check can cover services that your child needs to correct a health problem, improve the problem, prevent it from getting worse, or help the child live with the problem. Even if the service won't cure your child's condition, it must be covered if the service is necessary to improve or maintain your child's functioning or symptoms. If your child needs a specialized treatment, that treatment must be covered, so long as it is not experimental. If your child has a Medicaid card, and your doctor or other clinician says your child needs treatment, there is:

- No waiting list for Health Check services.
- No upper limit on the total cost of treatment.
- No upper limit on the number of hours necessary health care services are provided.
- No limit on the number of visits to a doctor or therapist.
- No requirement that the service or equipment your child needs has to be on our usual list of covered services.
- No co-payment or other cost to you.
- Coverage for services that are never covered for adults.
- Coverage for services not listed in the N.C. Medicaid State Plan.

The following is a list of some of the services that can be covered by Health Check if needed to correct or improve a child's health problem:

- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services.
- Laboratory and x-ray services.
- Family planning (birth control), including sexually transmitted disease screening.
- Physician services (including pediatricians and pediatric specialists).
- Vision screening and eye glasses.
- Hearing testing and hearing aid(s).
- Home health care services.
- Therapy services– physical, occupational, and speech/language.
- Private duty nursing services.
- Clinic services (including rural health clinics).
- Prescribed and over-the-counter drugs.
- Dental care, including preventive and restorative care.
- Durable medical equipment, including wheelchairs and **assistive devices**.
- **Case management.**

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- Medical or remedial services recommended for the maximum reduction of physical or mental disability and restoration of an individual to the best possible functional level (rehabilitation).
- Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded.
- Inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21.
- Maternity care.
- Respiratory care.
- Personal care services.
- Substance abuse services.
- Transportation services.

In order to obtain these services for your child, you can ask for Health Check or EPSDT services by contacting your child's doctor, your local Mental Health Authority, or any health care provider who accepts Medicaid. Health Check can also help with:

- Getting transportation.
- Setting up appointments.
- Finding a doctor or dentist.

You or your health care provider can also request Health Check services by writing directly to:

Assistant Director for Clinical Policy and Programs
Division of Medical Assistance
2501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2501
Fax: (919) 715-7679

For more information about Health Check Treatment Services, visit:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/EPSDTconsumer.htm>

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance,
Recipient Services EIS Manual - Online edition: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/Forms/famchild.pdf>

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