

430 - EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, AND TREATMENT SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/01/94, 03/01/19, 02/01/22, 10/01/22

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I. PURPOSE

This Policy applies to ACC, ACC-RBHA, ALTCS E/PD, DCS/CHP (CHP), DES/DDD (DDD) Contractors; Fee-For-Service (FFS) Programs including: American Indian Health Program (AIHP), Tribal ALTCS, TRBHA, and all FFS populations, excluding Federal Emergency Services (FES). (For FES, refer to AMPM Chapter 1100). This Policy establishes requirements for the provision of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services.

II. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Policy:

COMMERCIAL ORAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION	Nourishment available without a prescription that serves as sole caloric intake or additional caloric intake.
EARLY	In the case of a child already enrolled with an AHCCCS Contractor, as soon as possible in the child's life, or in other cases, as soon after the member's eligibility for AHCCCS services has been established.
SCREENING	Regularly scheduled examinations and evaluations of the general physical and behavioral health, growth, development, and nutritional status of infants, children, and adolescents, and the identification of those in need of more definitive evaluation. For the purpose of the AHCCCS EPSDT program, screening and diagnosis are not synonymous.

Additional definitions are located on the AHCCCS website at: [AHCCCS Contract and Policy Dictionary](#).

III. POLICY

The purpose of EPSDT is to ensure the availability and accessibility of health care resources as well as to assist members in effectively utilizing these resources.

EPSDT services provide comprehensive health care through primary prevention, early intervention, diagnosis, medically necessary treatment, and follow-up care of physical and behavioral health conditions for members under the age of 21 years. EPSDT covered services include services that correct or ameliorate physical and behavioral conditions and illnesses discovered by the screening process, when those services fall within one of the optional and mandatory categories of “Medical Assistance”, as defined in the Medicaid Act. Refer to Attachment E for the AHCCCS EPSDT Clinical Sample Templates (or Contractor/Provider’s electronic equivalent) for required information related to EPSDT screenings and visits.

The EPSDT Program provides comprehensive treatment and preventive health care services for Title XIX members under the age of 21. EPSDT, which is comprised of Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services, is critical for ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, physical health, behavioral health, developmental, and specialty services.

Under EPSDT, federal law requires that Title XIX cover all Medicaid-covered services listed in 42 USC 1396d(a) for members under the age of 21 when medically necessary and cost effective and even when the services are not listed as covered services in the AHCCCS State Plan, AHCCCS statutes, rules, or policies. This means that Contractors shall cover all physical and behavioral health services described within Medicaid covered services listed in 42 USC 1396d(a) if the treatment or service is necessary to “correct or ameliorate” defects or physical and behavioral illnesses or conditions. Medical necessity is determined on a case-by-case basis.

These comprehensive services shall be made available for treatment of all physical and behavioral health conditions and illnesses discovered by screening and diagnostic procedures. As part of EPSDT, the Contractor shall inform all Medicaid-eligible individuals under the age of 21 that EPSDT services are available, to provide or arrange for the provision of screening services for these individuals, to arrange (directly or through referral) for corrective treatment as determined by child health screenings EPSDT, and to report EPSDT performance information.

EPSDT includes, but is not limited to, coverage of: inpatient and outpatient hospital services, laboratory and x-ray services, physician services, naturopathic services, nurse practitioner services, medications, dental services, therapy services, behavioral health services, medical equipment, medical appliances and medical supplies, orthotics, prosthetic devices, eyeglasses, transportation, family planning services and supplies, women’s preventive care services, and maternity services when applicable, as specified in AMPM Chapter 400. EPSDT also includes diagnostic, screening, preventive, and rehabilitative services.

EPSDT services do not include services that are experimental, that are solely for cosmetic purposes, or that are not cost effective when compared to other interventions or treatments.

EPSDT screening services are provided in compliance with the periodicity requirements of 42 CFR 441.58. The AHCCCS Periodicity Schedule for EPSDT and dental services (AMPM Policy 430, Attachment A, and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A) are intended to meet reasonable and prevailing standards of medical and dental practice and specify screening services at each stage of the child's life. The service intervals represent minimum requirements. Any services determined by a Primary Care Provider (PCP) to be medically necessary shall be provided, regardless of the interval. Attachment A is based on recommendations by the Arizona Medical Association and is closely aligned with the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

EPSDT focuses on continuum of care by assessing health needs, providing preventive Screening, initiating needed referrals, and completing recommended medical treatment and appropriate follow-up.

EPSDT services include all screenings and services described in this Policy, as well as services specified in AMPM Policy 430, Attachment A, and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A.

An 'EPSDT visit' is synonymous with a 'Well Child' visit.

A. COVERED SERVICES DURING AN EPSDT VISIT

All applicable Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and Uniform Billing (UB-04) revenue codes are listed in the AHCCCS Rates and Billing webpage found on the AHCCCS website.

Providers are required to utilize national coding standards including the use of applicable modifier(s). Refer to the AHCCCS Medical Coding Resources webpage on the AHCCCS website.

The EPSDT/Well Child visit includes the following:

1. A comprehensive health and Developmental history, including growth and Developmental Screening 42 CFR 441.56(b) (1) which includes physical, nutritional, and behavioral health assessments. Refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/ for Body Mass Index (BMI) and growth chart resources.
2. Nutritional screening provided by a PCP.
3. Nutritional assessment provided by a PCP:
 - a. Nutritional assessments are conducted to assist EPSDT members whose health status may improve with nutritional intervention,
 - b. Nutritional assessment is a separately billable service by PCPs who care for EPSDT age members,
 - c. AHCCCS covers the assessment of nutritional status provided by the member's PCP as a part of the EPSDT screenings and on an inter-periodic basis, as determined necessary by the member's PCP,

- d. AHCCCS also covers nutritional assessments provided by a registered dietitian when ordered by the member's PCP. This includes EPSDT members who are underweight or overweight,
 - e. To initiate the referral for a nutritional assessment, the PCP shall use the Contractor's referral form in accordance with Contractor protocols, and
 - f. If a member qualifies for nutritional therapy due to a medical condition, the following is covered:
 - i. For medically necessary Arizona WIC formulary
 - ii. Refer to Arizona WIC Programs Food List,
 - iii. For medically necessary WIC-exempt formula, the Contractor shall also be responsible for procurement of and the primary funding source for any other nutritional supplementation that is medically necessary,
 - iv. For medically necessary WIC-exempt formula, the FFS provider shall also be responsible for procurement of any other nutritional supplementation that is medically necessary.
4. Behavioral health screening and services:
- a. PCPs may provide behavioral health services to eligible EPSDT members within their scope of practice as specified in AMPM Policy 510,
 - b. American Indian/Alaska Native members may receive behavioral health services through an Indian Health Service or tribally owned and/or operated 638 facility regardless of health plan enrollment or behavioral health assignment,
 - c. Screenings including:

The following screenings are separately billable, and a copy kept in the member's medical record, refer to the Medical Coding page on the AHCCCS website.

 - i. Postpartum consisting of a standard norm-criterion referenced screening tool to be performed for screening the birthing parent for signs and symptoms of postpartum depression during the one-, two-, four- and six-month EPSDT visits. Positive screening results require referral to appropriate case managers and services at the respective maternal health plan, and
 - ii. Adolescent Suicide consisting of a standardized, norm-referenced screening tool specific for suicide and depression shall be performed at annual EPSDT visits beginning at age 10 years of age. Positive screening results require appropriate and timely referral for further evaluation and service provision.
5. Developmental Surveillance
- Developmental surveillance with anticipatory guidance shall be performed with the PCP at each EPSDT visit. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the AAP regularly update and revise developmental milestones through the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program. Use of the most recent developmental milestones identify the behaviors that 75% or more of children can be expected to exhibit at a certain age based on data, developmental resources and clinician experience.

6. Developmental screening:
 - a. Developmental screening is a separately billable service by PCPs who care for EPSDT age members,
 - b. PCPs who bill for developmental screening shall be trained in the use and scoring of the developmental screening tools as indicated by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),
 - c. Any abnormal developmental screening finding shall result in referrals for appropriate follow-up,
 - d. As specified in AMPM Behavioral Health Practice Tool 210 and AMPM Policy 320-O, a copy of the developmental screening tool shall be kept in the medical record, and
 - e. General Developmental Screening at nine months, 18 months, and 30 months EPSDT visits
 - i. General developmental screening shall occur at the nine months, 18 months, and 30 months EPSDT visits,
 - ii. Accepted tools are described in the CMS Core Measure *Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life* and shall be used for screening purposes.
 - f. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Specific Developmental Screening at the 18 months and 24 months EPSDT visits:
 - i. ASD specific developmental screening should occur at the 18 months and 24 months EPSDT visits. Accepted tools are described in the CMS Core Measure *Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life (DEV) Measure Specifications* and shall be used for screening purposes.
7. A comprehensive unclothed physical examination.
8. Immunizations:
 - a. EPSDT covers all child and adolescent immunizations, as specified in the CDC recommended childhood immunization schedules and as specified in AMPM Policy 310-M, according to age and health history,
 - b. For members under age 19 years, unless otherwise noted in AMPM Policy 310-M, providers shall be registered as Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers and VFC vaccines shall be used,
 - c. For adult immunizations, refer to AMPM Policy 310-M, and
 - d. Providers may also provide COVID-19 vaccine counseling whether the vaccine counseling occurs in conjunction with a preventive health visit (e.g. EPSDT), in conjunction with an office visit when another service was provided (e.g. office visit to address diagnosed illness(es), new issues, and/or prescription refills), or when COVID-19 vaccine counseling is the sole reason for the office visit.
9. Laboratory tests:
 - a. Laboratory including anemia testing and diagnostic testing for sickle cell trait (if a child has not been previously tested with sickle cell preparation or a hemoglobin solubility test), and
 - b. EPSDT covers blood lead screening and testing appropriate to age and risk. Blood lead testing is required for all members at 12 months and 24 months of age and for those members between the ages of 24 months through six years who have not been previously tested or who missed either the 12-month or 24-month test. Lead levels may be measured at times other than those specified if thought to be medically indicated by the provider, by responses to a lead poisoning verbal risk assessment, or in response to

guardian/Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM), Designated Representative (DR)s concerns. Additional screening for children through six years of age is based on the child's risk as determined by either the member's residential zip code or presence of other known risk-factors.

10. Health education, counseling, and chronic disease self-management.
11. Oral health screening:
 - a. Appropriate oral health screening, intended to identify oral pathology, including tooth decay and/or oral lesions, and the application of fluoride varnish conducted by a physician, physician assistant(s), or nurse practitioner. Refer to AMPM Policy 431,
 - b. Fluoride varnish is limited in a PCPs office to once every three months, during an EPSDT visit for children who have reached six months of age with at least one tooth erupted, with recurrent applications up to two years of age, may be reimbursed according to AHCCCS-approved fee schedules, and
 - c. Application of fluoride varnish by the PCP does not take the place of a visit at the home.
12. Appropriate vision screenings and services:
 - a. EPSDT covers eye examinations as appropriate to age according to the AHCCCS EPSDT periodicity schedule and as medically necessary using standardized visual tools,
 - b. Ocular photo screening with interpretation and report, bilateral is covered for children ages three through six as part of the EPSDT visit due to challenges with a child's ability to cooperate with traditional chart-based vision Screening techniques. Ocular photo screening is limited to a lifetime coverage limit of one,
 - c. Automated visual Screening is for vision Screening only, and not recommended for or covered by AHCCCS when used to determine visual acuity for purposes of prescribing glasses or other corrective devices, and
 - d. Prescriptive lenses and frames are provided to correct or ameliorate defects, physical illness, and conditions discovered by EPSDT screenings, subject to medical necessity. Frames for eyeglasses are also covered. As part of EPSDT, eyeglasses and other vision services, including replacement and repair of eyeglasses, for members under the age of 21 years are covered, without restrictions, by AHCCCS to correct or ameliorate conditions discovered during vision screenings for EPSDT.
13. Appropriate Hearing Screening and Services
 - a. Newborn hearing screening must be performed per state statute A.R.S. 36-694, and
 - b. Ensure medically necessary audiology services to evaluate hearing loss for all members are provided on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Hearing aids are covered only for members under the age of 21 receiving Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services.

14. Tuberculosis (TB) screening:

Tuberculin skin testing as appropriate to age and risk. Children at increased risk of TB include those who have contact with individuals:

- a. Confirmed or suspected as having TB,
- b. In jail or prison during the last five years,
- c. Living in a household with an HIV-infected individual or the child is infected with HIV, and/or
- d. Traveling/immigrating from or having significant contact with individuals indigenous to endemic countries.

B. SICK VISIT PERFORMED IN ADDITION TO AN EPSDT VISIT

A “sick visit” can be performed at the same time as an EPSDT visit if:

1. An abnormality is encountered, or a preexisting problem is addressed in the process of performing an EPSDT service and the problem or abnormality is significant enough to require additional work to perform the key components of a problem-oriented Evaluation and Management (E/M) service, and/or
2. The “sick visit” is documented on a separate note.

History, exam, and medical decision-making components of the separate “sick visit” already performed during the course of an EPSDT visit are not to be considered when determining the level of the additional service.

An insignificant or trivial problem/abnormality that is encountered in the process of performing the preventive medicine E/M service, and which does not require additional work and the performance of the key components of a problem-oriented E/M service is included in the EPSDT visit and should not be reported.

C. CONTRACTOR-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall:

1. Implement processes to ensure age-appropriate Screening and care coordination, as specified in Contract, when member needs are identified.
2. Ensure providers utilize accepted developmental screening tools as described in the CMS Core Measure Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life and complete training in the use and scoring of these tools, as indicated by the AAP. The Contractor shall monitor providers and implement interventions for non-compliance.
3. Develop policies and procedures to identify the needs of EPSDT age members, inform members of the availability of EPSDT services, coordinate member care, provide care management, when medically necessary based on health risk assessment, conduct appropriate follow-up, and ensure members receive timely and appropriate treatment.
4. Develop policies and procedure to monitor, evaluate, and improve EPSDT participation.

5. Ensure members receive required health screenings in compliance with the Attachment A and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A.
6. Ensure that the Bloodspot Newborn Screening Panel, hearing, congenital heart defect, and, if indicated, bilirubin screening tests are conducted, including initial and secondary screenings, in accordance with 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 2.
7. Ensure that in-office capillary blood draws utilizing validated CLIA waived testing equipment will be covered for in-network point of care EPSDT visits.
8. Ensure that providers report blood lead levels to Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) as required under (A.A.C. R9-4-302). The Contractor shall implement protocols for the following:
 - a. Care coordination for members with elevated blood lead levels (e.g., parents/ HCDM, DR, PCP and ADHS) to ensure timely follow-up and retesting,
 - b. Case management is required for all children with elevated blood lead levels per current CDC recommendations. Case management shall align with CDC's recommendations for actions based on blood lead level and ADHS recommendations,
 - c. Appropriate care coordination for an EPSDT child who has an elevated blood lead level and is transitioning to or from another AHCCCS Contractor, and
 - d. Referral of members who lose AHCCCS eligibility to low-cost or no-cost follow-up testing and treatment for those members who have a blood lead test result equal to or greater than the current CDC blood lead reference values.
9. Develop, implement, and maintain a process to provide appropriate access to and timeliness of blood lead testing and follow-up care for members who have abnormal blood lead test results.
10. Ensure that:
 - a. Each hospital or birthing center screens all newborns using a physiological hearing screening method prior to initial hospital discharge,
 - b. Each hospital or birthing center provides outpatient re-screening for babies who were missed or are referred from the initial screening. Outpatient re-screening shall be scheduled at the time of the initial discharge and completed between two and six weeks of age, and
 - c. When there is an indication that a newborn or infant may have a hearing loss or congenital disorder, the family shall be referred to the PCP for appropriate assessment, care coordination and referral(s).
11. All infants with confirmed hearing loss receive services before turning six months of age.
12. Implement protocols for care and coordination of members who received TB testing to ensure timely reading of the TB skin test and treatment, if medically necessary.
13. Employ sufficient number of appropriately qualified local personnel in order to meet the health care needs of members and fulfill Federal and State EPSDT requirements, as well as achieve contractual compliance.

14. Inform all participating PCPs about EPSDT requirements and monitor compliance with the requirements. This shall include informing PCPs of Federal, State and AHCCCS policy requirements for EPSDT and updates of new information as it becomes available and ensuring PCPs providing care to children are trained to use implemented developmental screening tools. This shall also include a process to monitor the utilization of appropriate norm-criterion based referenced and validated developmental screening tools.

15. Provide EPSDT member outreach, including oral health member outreach as specified in this policy, in AMPM Policy 431 and AMPM Exhibit 400-3. This information shall include:
 - a. Develop, implement, and maintain a process to inform members about EPSDT services that align with the enrollment and annual requirements in ACOM Policy 406. This information shall include:
 - i. The benefits of preventive health care,
 - ii. Information that an EPSDT visit is a Well Child visit,
 - iii. A description of the services listed in section A (of this policy), Covered Services During an EPSDT Visit,
 - iv. Information on how to obtain these services and assistance with scheduling appointments,
 - v. Availability of case management assistance in coordinating EPSDT covered services,
 - vi. A statement that there is no copayment or other charge for EPSDT Screening and resultant services as specified in ACOM Policy 431, and
 - vii. A statement that assistance with medically necessary transportation as specified in AMPM Policy 310-BB is available to obtain EPSDT services.
 - b. Conduct written and other member educational outreach related to immunizations, available community resources (including but not limited to WIC, AZEIP, CRS, Behavioral Health, Home Visiting Programs, Head Start, Birth to Five Helpline), lead poisoning prevention (dangers of and sources of lead exposure in AZ populations, lead poisoning prevention measures and recommended/mandatory testing), age appropriate weight gain, childhood obesity and prevention measures, how to recognize asthma signs and symptoms, reduce triggers, and improve maintenance, age appropriate risk prevention efforts (addressing development, injury and suicide prevention, bullying, violence, drug and alcohol use, social media and sexual behavior), education on importance of utilizing primary care provider in place of ER visits for non-emergent concerns, recommended periodicity schedule, and other Contractor selected topics at a minimum of once every 12 months. These topics may be addressed separately or combined into one written outreach material; however, each topic shall be covered during the 12-month period. EPSDT related outreach material shall include a statement informing members that an EPSDT visits is synonymous to a Well Child visit. Refer to AMPM Exhibit 400-3, AMPM Policy 431 and ACOM Policy 404 for additional member information requirements.
 - c. Develop, implement, and maintain a procedure to notify member/HCDM, DR of visits recommended by the AHCCCS EPSDT and Dental Periodicity Schedules (Attachment A and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A). This procedure shall include:
 - i. Notification to member’s responsible parties/HCDM, DR regarding suggested dates of each EPSDT visit. If an EPSDT visit has not taken place, a second written notice shall be sent,

- ii. Notification to member's or responsible parties/HCDM, DR regarding suggested dates of biannual (one-visit every six months) dental visits. If a dental visit has not taken place, a second notice shall be sent,
 - iii. Inform members of appropriate immunizations according to age and health history,
 - iv. Refer to AMPM Policy 431 and AMPM Exhibit 400-3 for additional Oral Health required written notifications, and
 - v. Processes other than mailings shall be pre-approved by AHCCCS as outlined in ACOM 404.
- d. Provide targeted outreach to those members who did not show for appointments.
- e. Provide EPSDT information in accordance with the requirements in ACOM Policy 405 and include Oral Health member outreach as specified in AMPM Exhibit 400-3 and AMPM Policy 431.
16. Develop and implement processes to educate, refer and assist members and their families regarding community health resources, including but not limited to WIC (and ensure medically necessary nutritional supplements are covered), AzEIP, Home Visiting Programs and Head Start as specified in 42 CFR 441.61.
17. Develop and implement processes to ensure the identification of members needing care management services and the availability of care management assistance in coordinating EPSDT covered services.
18. Participate in community and/or quality initiatives, to promote and support best local practices and quality care, within the communities served by the Contractor.
19. Coordinate with other entities when the Contractor determines a member has third party coverage.
20. Develop, implement, and maintain a procedure for ensuring timeliness and care coordination of re-screening and treatment for all conditions identified, including behavioral health services, as a result of examination, Screening, and diagnosis. Treatment, if required, shall occur on a timely basis, generally initiating services no longer than 60 days beyond the request for Screening services, unless stated otherwise in this Policy.
21. Require the use of the AHCCCS EPSDT and Dental Periodicity Schedules (AMPM Policy 430, Attachment A and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A) by all contracted providers.
22. Develop and implement a process for monitoring that providers use the most current EPSDT Periodicity Schedule at every EPSDT visit and that all age-appropriate Screenings and services are conducted during each visit.
23. Develop and implement processes to reduce no-show appointment rates for EPSDT services.
24. Encourage providers to schedule the next EPSDT Screening at the current office visit, particularly for children 30 months of age and younger.

25. Ensure providers enroll and re-enroll annually with the VFC program, in accordance with AHCCCS Contract requirements.
 - a. Contractors shall not utilize AHCCCS funding to purchase vaccines covered through the VFC program for members younger than 19 years of age unless otherwise specifically authorized by AHCCCS, and
 - b. Contractors shall ensure providers document each EPSDT age member's immunizations in the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIS) registry. In addition, Contractors shall ensure providers maintain the ASIS immunization records of each EPSDT member in ASIS, in accordance with A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 135. Contractors are required to monitor provider's compliance with immunization registry reporting requirements and take action to improve reporting when issues are identified.

26. Participate in a review of EPSDT requirements conducted by AHCCCS, including but not limited to: Contractor results of on-site visits to providers and medical record audits.

27. Include language in PCP contracts that requires PCPs to:
 - a. Provide EPSDT services for all assigned members from birth up to 21 years of age. Services shall be provided in accordance with the AHCCCS EPSDT and Dental Periodicity Schedules (AMPM Policy 430, Attachment A and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A),
 - b. Implement procedures to ensure compliance by PCPs with all EPSDT standards and contract requirements,
 - c. Implement protocols to ensure that health problems are diagnosed and treated Early, before they become more complex and the treatment more costly (including follow-up related to blood lead Screening and tuberculosis Screening),
 - d. Have a process for assisting members in navigating the healthcare system, as well as inform members of any other community-based resources that support optimal health outcomes, to ensure that members receive appropriate support services,
 - e. Implement protocols for coordinating care and services with the appropriate state agencies for EPSDT members, and ensure that members are referred to support services, as well as other community-based resources to support good health outcomes,
 - f. Refer eligible members to Head Start and the special supplemental nutrition program for WIC, for WIC approved formula and support services. Ensure that medically necessary nutritional supplements are covered by the Contractor. For more information, refer, EPSDT Service Standards, Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy of this Policy),
 - g. Utilize the criteria specified in this Policy when requesting medically necessary nutritional supplements,
 - h. Coordinate with Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) to identify children birth up to three years of age with developmental disabilities needing services, including family education and family support needs focusing on each child's natural environment, to optimize child health and development (EPSDT services, as defined in 9 A.A.C. 22, Article 2, shall be provided by the Contractors). Refer to Attachment D, and
 - i. Require providers to communicate results of assessments and services provided to AzEIP enrollees within 45 days of the member's AzEIP enrollment. Refer to Attachment C for more information related to the coordination and referral process for Early interventions services.

28. Coordinate with behavioral health services agencies and providers to ensure continuity of care for members who are receiving or are eligible to receive behavioral health services. Behavioral health services are delivered in accordance with guidelines that incorporate evidence-based “best practices”. AHCCCS has implemented 12 Principles to maintain the integrity of the best practices and approaches to providing behavioral health services for children. Contractors and providers are required to integrate these principles in the provision of behavioral health services for EPSDT age members. Refer to AMPM Policy 100.
29. Develop guidelines for use by the PCP in providing the following:
 - a. Information necessary to obtain Prior Authorization (PA) for commercial oral nutritional supplements,
 - b. Encouragement and assistance to the parent/guardian/HCDM, DR in weaning the member from the necessity for supplemental nutritional feedings, and
 - c. Education and training, if the member's parent/guardian/HCDM, DR elects to prepare the member's food, regarding proper sanitation and temperatures to avoid contamination of foods that are blended or specially prepared for the member.
30. Implement protocols for transitioning a child who is receiving nutritional therapy, to or from another Contractor or another service program (e.g. WIC).
31. Implement a process for verifying medical necessity of nutritional therapy through the receipt of supporting medical documentation dated within three months of the request, prior to giving initial or ongoing authorizations for nutritional therapy. Documentation shall include clinical notes or other supporting documentation from the member's PCP specialty provider, or registered dietitian, including a detailed history and thorough physical assessment that provides evidence of member meeting all of the required criteria, as indicated on Attachment B.
32. Prior to the member's 21st birthday, as specified in AMPM BHPT 280 and AMPM Policy 540, ensure that a transition plan is addressed and relevant to the member's needs as identified by their PCP including, but not limited to:
 - a. Housing and food security,
 - b. Continuation of health insurance coverage, and
 - c. Continuous support services for existing physical and behavioral health needs.

D. CONTRACTOR-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EPSDT PROGRAM PLAN CHECKLIST

Contractors shall have a written EPSDT Program Plan Checklist that addresses minimum Contractor requirements as specified above as well as the objectives of the Contractor's program that are focused on achieving AHCCCS requirements.

The Checklist shall also incorporate monitoring and evaluation activities for these minimum requirements. Refer to Attachment F. The EPSDT Program Plan Checklist shall be submitted as specified in Contract and is subject to AHCCCS approval. The EPSDT Program Plan Checklist shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

1. EPSDT Narrative Plan

A written description of all planned activities to address the Contractor’s minimum requirements for EPSDT services, as specified above, including, but not limited to, informing providers and members that EPSDT is a comprehensive child health program of prevention, treatment, correction, and improvement (amelioration) of physical and behavioral health problems for members under the age of 21. The narrative description shall also include Contractor activities to identify member needs, coordination of care, and follow-up activities to ensure appropriate treatment is received in a timely manner.

2. EPSDT Plan Evaluation

An evaluation of the previous year’s Plan to determine the effectiveness of strategies, interventions, and activities used toward meeting stated objectives.

3. EPSDT Plan that includes:

- a. Specific measurable objectives. These objectives shall be based on AHCCCS established Minimum Performance Standards. In cases where AHCCCS Minimum Performance Standards have been met, other generally accepted benchmarks that continue the Contractor’s improvement efforts will be used (e.g. National Committee on Quality Assurance, current Healthy People standards). Contractors may also develop their own specific measurable goals and objectives aimed at enhancing the EPSDT program when Minimum Performance Standards have been met,
- b. Strategies and specific measurable interventions to accomplish objectives (e.g. member outreach, provider education and provider compliance with mandatory components of the EPSDT program),
- c. Targeted implementation and completion dates of plan activities,
- d. Assigned local staff position(s) responsible and accountable for meeting each established goal and objective, and
- e. Identification and implementation of new interventions, continuation of, or modification to existing interventions, based on quarterly analysis of the previous year’s Plan Evaluation.

4. All relevant current EPSDT policies and procedures shall be submitted as separate attachments.

E. PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

EPSDT services shall be provided according to community standards of practice in accordance with Section 42 USC 1396d(a) and (r), 1396a(a)(43), 42 CFR 441.50 et seq. and AHCCCS rules and policies including the AHCCCS EPSDT and Dental Periodicity Schedules (AMPM Policy 430, Attachment A and AMPM Policy 431, Attachment A).

Providers shall refer members for follow-up, diagnosis, and treatment. Treatment is to be initiated within 60 days of Screening services.

Providers are required to provide health counseling/education at initial and follow-up visits.

Refer to the specific AHCCCS Contractor for managed care members and to AMPM Policy 820 for Fee-For-Service members, regarding PA requirements.

A PCP referral is not required for Naturopathic services.

Additionally, providers shall adhere to the below specific standards and requirements for the following covered services:

1. **Breastfeeding Support**
Per AAP recommendation, PCPs will ensure that families receive evidence-based breastfeeding information and support.
2. **Immunizations:**
 - a. All appropriate immunizations shall be provided according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Schedule as specified in the CDC recommended immunization schedules and AMPM Policy 310-M.
Refer to the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html for current immunization schedules. The vaccine schedule shall also reflect current state statutes governing school immunization requirements as listed on www.AZDHS.gov. If appropriate, document in the member's medical record the member/HCDM/DRs decision not to utilize EPSDT services or receive immunizations, and
 - b. Providers shall coordinate with the ADHS for the VFC program in the delivery of immunization services.
3. **Lead Screening:**
 - a. The ADHS Parent Questionnaire may be utilized to help determine if a lead test should be performed outside of the required testing ages. Screening efforts should focus on assuring that these children receive blood lead testing,
 - b. Anticipatory guidance to provide an environment safe from lead, shall still be included as part of each EPSDT visit from six months through six years of age, and
 - c. A blood lead test result equal to or greater than the current CDC recommended blood lead reference values obtained by capillary specimen or fingerstick shall be confirmed using a venous blood sample.
4. Refer to AMPM Policy 310-DD for information regarding AHCCCS-covered transplants.
5. **Metabolic Medical Foods**
If an AHCCCS covered member has a congenital metabolic disorder identified through the Bloodspot Newborn Screening Panel (such as Phenylketonuria, Homocystinuria, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, or Galactosemia), refer to AMPM Policy 310-GG.
6. **Nutritional Therapy**
 - a. AHCCCS covers nutritional therapy for EPSDT members on an Enteral Nutrition, TPN Therapy, or oral basis when determined medically necessary to provide either complete daily dietary requirements, or to supplement a member's daily nutritional and caloric intake,
 - b. PA is required from the member's Managed Care Contractor or Tribal ALTCS Case Manager or AHCCCS DFSM for FFS members for Commercial Oral Supplemental Nutrition, unless the member is also currently receiving nutrition through Enteral Nutrition or TPN Therapy,

- i. Medical necessity for commercial oral nutritional supplements shall be determined on an individual basis by the member's PCP or specialty provider. The PCP or specialty provider shall use the AHCCCS approved form, Attachment B, to obtain authorization from the member's Managed Care Contractor or Tribal ALTCS Case Manager or AHCCCS DFMSM for FFS members.
 - 1) Attachment B shall indicate which criteria were met when assessing the medical necessity of providing commercial oral nutritional supplements.
 - a) The member has been diagnosed with a chronic disease or condition,
 - b) The member is below the recommended BMI percentile (or weight-for-length percentile for members less than two years of age) for the diagnosis per evidence-based guidance as issued by the AAP, and
 - c) There are no alternatives for adequate nutrition.
 - OR**
 - 2) At least two of the following criteria have been met for the basis of establishing medical necessity:
 - a) The member is at or below the 10th percentile for weight-for-length or BMI on the appropriate growth chart for age and gender, as recommended by the CDC, for three months or more,
 - b) The member has reached a plateau in growth and/or nutritional status for more than six months, or more than three months if member is an infant less than one year of age,
 - c) The member has already demonstrated a medically significant decline in weight within the three-month period prior to the assessment, and
 - d) The member is able to consume/eat no more than 25% of his/her nutritional requirements from age-appropriate food sources.
 - 3) Additionally, the following requirements shall be met:
 - a) The member has been evaluated and treated for medical conditions that may cause problems with growth (e.g., feeding problems, behavioral conditions or psychosocial problems, endocrine, or gastrointestinal problems), and
 - b) The member has had a trial of higher caloric foods, blenderized foods, or commonly available products that may be used as dietary supplements for a period no less than 30 days in duration. If it is determined through clinical documentation and other supporting evidence that a trial of higher caloric foods would be detrimental to the member's overall health, the provider may submit Attachment B, along with supporting documentation demonstrating the risk posed to the member for the Contractor's Medical Director or Designee's consideration in approving the provider's PA request.
 - 4) Supporting documentation shall accompany Attachment B. This documentation shall demonstrate that the member meets all of the required criteria and includes:
 - a) Initial Requests
 - i. Documentation demonstrating that nutritional counseling has been provided as a part of the health risk assessment and Screening services provided to the member by the PCP or specialty provider, or through consultation with a registered dietitian,

- ii. Clinical notes or other supporting documentation dated within three months of the request, providing a detailed history and thorough physical assessment demonstrating evidence of member meeting all of the required criteria, as indicated on Attachment B.
The physical assessment shall include the member’s current/past weight-for-length and BMI percentiles (BMI if member is two years of age or older, otherwise evidence that appropriate growth charts were used for children under age two refer to Attachment B), and
 - iii. Documentation detailing alternatives that were tried in an effort to boost caloric intake and/or change food consistencies that have proven unsuccessful in resolving the nutritional concern identified, as well as member adherence to the prescribed dietary plan/ alternatives attempted.
- b) Ongoing Requests
Subsequent submissions shall include a clinical note or other supporting documentation dated within three months of the request that includes the members overall response to supplemental therapy and justification for continued supplement use. This shall include the member’s tolerance to formula, recent hospitalizations, current weight-for-length, or BMI percentile (if member is two year of age or older).
- 5) Members receiving nutritional therapy shall be physically assessed by the member’s PCP, specialty provider, or registered dietitian at least annually. Additionally, documentation demonstrating encouragement and assistance provided to the parent/HCDM, DR in weaning the member from supplemental nutritional feedings should be included, when appropriate. When requesting initial or ongoing PA for commercial oral nutritional supplements, providers shall ensure the following:
- a) Documents are submitted with the completed Attachment B to support all of the necessary requirements for Commercial Oral Nutritional Supplements as detailed above,
 - b) If the member's parent/HCDM, DR elects to prepare the member's food, education and training regarding proper sanitation and temperatures to avoid contamination of foods that are blended or specially prepared for the member is provided,
 - c) Ongoing monitoring is conducted to assess member adherence/tolerance to the prescribed nutritional supplement regimen and determine necessary adjustments to the prescribed amount of supplement are appropriate based on the member’s weight loss/gain, and
 - d) Documentation demonstrating encouragement and assistance provided to the parent/HCDM, DR in weaning the member from the necessity for supplemental nutritional feedings, when appropriate.

7. Oral Health Services

As part of the physical examination, the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner shall perform an oral health Screening. A Screening is intended to identify gross dental or oral lesions but is not a thorough clinical examination and does not involve making a clinical diagnosis resulting in a treatment plan. Referral to a dentist or dental home shall be made as outlined in policy. Refer to AMPM Policy 431, for more details pertaining to covered services, provider, and Contractor requirements.

8. Cochlear and Osseointegrated Implantation

a. Cochlear implantation

Cochlear implantation provides an awareness and identification of sounds and facilitates communication for individuals who have profound, sensorineural hearing loss (nerve deafness). Deafness may be prelingual/perilingual or post-lingual. AHCCCS covers medically necessary services for cochlear implantation solely for EPSDT age members. Candidates for cochlear implants shall meet criteria for medical necessity, including but not limited to, the following indications:

- i. A diagnosis of either unilateral or bilateral profound sensorineural deafness (using age-appropriate standard testing), with little or no benefit from a hearing (or vibrotactile) aid, as established by audiologic and medical evaluation,
- ii. Presence of an accessible cochlear lumen structurally suited to implantation, with no lesions in the auditory nerve and acoustic areas of the central nervous system, as demonstrated by CT scan or other appropriate radiologic evaluation,
- iii. No known contraindications to surgery,
- iv. Demonstrated age-appropriate cognitive ability to use auditory clues, and
- v. The device shall be used in accordance with the FDA approved labeling.

b. Coverage of cochlear implantation includes the following treatment and service components:

- i. Complete auditory testing and evaluation by an otolaryngologist, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist,
- ii. Pre-surgery inpatient/outpatient evaluation by a board-certified otolaryngologist,
- iii. Diagnostic procedures and studies, including CT scan or other appropriate radiologic evaluation, for determining candidacy suitability,
- iv. Pre-operative psychosocial assessment/evaluation by psychologist or counselor,
- v. Prosthetic device for implantation (shall be non-experimental/non-investigational and be Food and Drug Administration approved and used according to labeling instructions),
- vi. Surgical implantation and related services,
- vii. Post-surgical rehabilitation, education, counseling, and training,
- viii. Equipment maintenance, repair, and replacement of the internal/external components or both if not operating effectively. Examples include but are not limited to: the device is no longer functional or the used component compromises the member's safety. Documentation which establishes the need to replace components not operating effectively shall be provided at the time prior authorization is sought,
- ix. Cochlear implantation requires PA from the Contractor Medical Director, or from the AHCCCS Medical Director or designee for FFS members, and

- c. Osseointegrated implants (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid [BAHA])
AHCCCS coverage of medically necessary services for Osseointegrated implantation is limited to EPSDT members. Osseointegrated implants are devices implanted in the skull that replace the function of the middle ear and provide mechanical energy to the cochlea via a mechanical transducer. These devices are indicated only when hearing aids are medically inappropriate or cannot be utilized due to congenital malformation, chronic disease, severe sensorineural hearing loss, or surgery. Osseointegrated implantation requires PA from the Contractor Medical Director, or from the AHCCCS Medical Director or designee for FFS members. Maintenance of the Osseointegrated implants is the same as described above for cochlear implants.

9. Conscious Sedation

AHCCCS covers conscious sedation for members receiving EPSDT services.

10. Behavioral Health Services

AHCCCS covers timeliness of health services for members eligible for EPSDT services as described in Contract and Policy. EPSDT behavioral health services include the services listed in 42 U.S.C.1396d (a) necessary to correct or ameliorate mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the Screening services whether or not the services are covered under the AHCCCS State Plan.

For the diagnosis of behavioral health conditions including, but not limited to Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), depression (including postnatal depression), and/or anxiety disorders, there are clinical guidelines that include assessment tools and algorithms. If allowable within their scope of practice, the clinical guidelines are to be used by PCPs as an aid in treatment decisions.

11. Religious Non-Medical Health Care Institution Services

AHCCCS covers religious non-medical health care institution services for members eligible for EPSDT services as specified in AMPM Policy 1210.

12. Care Management Services

AHCCCS covers care management services for both physical and behavioral health care, as appropriate for members eligible for EPSDT services. In EPSDT, care management involves identifying the health needs of a child, ensuring necessary referrals are made, maintaining health history, and initiating further evaluation/diagnosis and treatment when necessary.

13. Chiropractic Services

AHCCCS covers chiropractic services to members eligible for EPSDT services, when ordered by the member's PCP and approved by the Contractor in order to ameliorate the member's medical condition.

14. Personal Care Services

AHCCCS covers personal care services, as appropriate, for members eligible for EPSDT services.

15. Incontinence Briefs

Incontinence briefs, including pull-ups and incontinence pads, are covered in order to prevent skin breakdown and to enable participation in social, community, therapeutic and educational activities under the following circumstances:

- a. The member is over three years and under 21 years of age,
- b. The member is incontinent due to a documented disability that causes incontinence of bowel and/or bladder,
- c. The PCP or attending physician has issued a prescription ordering the incontinence briefs,
- d. Incontinence briefs do not exceed 240 briefs per month unless the prescribing physician presents evidence of medical necessity for more than 240 briefs per month for a member diagnosed with chronic diarrhea or spastic bladder,
- e. The member obtains incontinence briefs from vendors within the Contractor's network, and
- f. PA has been obtained as required by AHCCCS, Contractor, or Contractor's designee. Contractors may require a new PA to be issued no more frequently than every 12 months. PA for a renewal of an existing prescription may be provided by the physician through telephone contact with the member rather than an in-person physician visit. PA will be permitted to ascertain that:
 - i. The member is over three years and under 21 years of age,
 - ii. The member has a disability that causes incontinence of bladder and/or bowel,
 - iii. A physician has prescribed incontinence briefs as medically necessary. A physician prescription supporting medical necessity may be required for specialty briefs or for briefs different from the standard briefs supplied by the Contractor, and
 - iv. The prescription is for 240 briefs or fewer per month unless evidence of medical necessity for over 240 briefs is provided.

16. Medically Necessary Therapies

AHCCCS covers medically necessary therapies including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, necessary to correct or ameliorate defects, physical and mental illnesses, and conditions discovered by the Screening services. Therapies are covered under both an inpatient and outpatient basis when medically necessary. For children identified by the PCP as needing early intervention services, Contractors are required to provide services in the natural environment whenever possible. Refer to Attachment C for more information related to the coordination and referral process for early interventions services.