
CHAPTER 47: EPSDT HEALTH AND IDEA, Part C - EarlySteps

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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) requires that all providers of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Health Services for Children with Disabilities, enrolled in Medicaid, give the following statement, in writing, to each Medicaid eligible beneficiary and/or caregiver at the time that the individualized family services plan (IFSP) is developed.

If your child is Medicaid eligible and is eligible to receive the following:

1. Audiological evaluation and services;
2. Occupational therapy evaluations and treatment services;
3. Physical therapy evaluations and therapy;
4. Speech and language evaluations and therapy;
5. Psychological evaluations and therapy; and
6. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

For Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part C, services may be obtained either through the EarlySteps program for an eligible child, or another Medicaid enrolled provider of these services.

Children who do not qualify for these services for early intervention purposes may still be eligible for them through Medicaid. Services provided outside of the IDEA Part C programs must be ordered by a physician. Once the services are ordered by a physician, the service provider must request approval from Medicaid. To locate a provider other than the EarlySteps system point of entry office (SPOE) or early intervention provider, please contact your family support coordinator, physician, or call the Healthy Louisiana hotline. (See Appendix E).

EPSDT health services program requirements for reimbursement are:

1. All services must be furnished through a child's IFSP. Only services provided through an IFSP may be billed to Medicaid under the EPSDT health and IDEA-related services program;
2. If providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers, use the approved

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IFSP forms available from EarlySteps. No other forms are allowable;

3. Early intervention providers enroll directly with Medicaid as providers of these services for infants and toddlers under age three. These services must be coordinated with other age appropriate preventive health services, including screenings and immunizations with Healthy Louisiana;
4. Professional staff must meet state and Medicaid practitioner standards regarding certification, licensure, and supervision. Documentation of staff qualifications must be provided to Medicaid as part of the enrollment and monitoring process. Refer to Section 20.1 of this manual chapter for applicable qualifications; and
5. A written referral or prescription must be obtained from a licensed physician to furnish occupational therapy. This must be done at least annually. The written referral or prescription is not required to conduct an initial evaluation.