

FINANCING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Medicaid Benefit



WHAT IS EPSDT?

- Mandated benefit for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid⁽¹⁾
- Covers appropriate screening and preventive services, including for mental health⁽²⁾
- Also covers treatment services needed to address any conditions identified through EPSDT-covered screenings⁽²⁾

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CAN BE COVERED BY EPSDT?



Medicaid covers *screening* plus all medically necessary *diagnostic services and treatment* of all physical and mental illnesses and conditions that are discovered through EPSDT-covered screening.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING SERVICES

- Developmental/behavioral assessment
- Autism screening
- Psychosocial assessment
- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use assessment
- Depression screening
...and more!



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

- Community-based crisis services
- Individualized mental health and substance use treatment services
- Medication management
- Counseling and therapy
...and more!



Detailed information about EPSDT-covered services can be found [here](#).⁽²⁾



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EPSDT



MISCONCEPTIONS:



REALITY:

EPSDT only covers Medicaid-covered services



All medically necessary diagnostic services and treatment identified through an EPSDT-covered screening are covered.

The EPSDT benefit also includes services that are not otherwise covered by Medicaid (e.g., ophthalmology, dental, hearing aids).

EPSDT is only available to IDEA-eligible students^{*(3)}



EPSDT is available to ALL Medicaid-enrolled youth (age < 21).

EPSDT benefit recipients do NOT need to be IDEA-eligible.

REFERENCES:

- (1) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment. 2019; <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>. Accessed August 24, 2020.
- (2) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. EPSDT - A Guide for States: Coverage in the Medicaid Benefit for Children and Adolescents. 2014; https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/epsdt_coverage_guide.pdf. Accessed August 24, 2020.
- (3) U.S. Department of Education. About IDEA. 2019; <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea/>. Accessed August 24, 2020.

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that "makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children".*



MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration