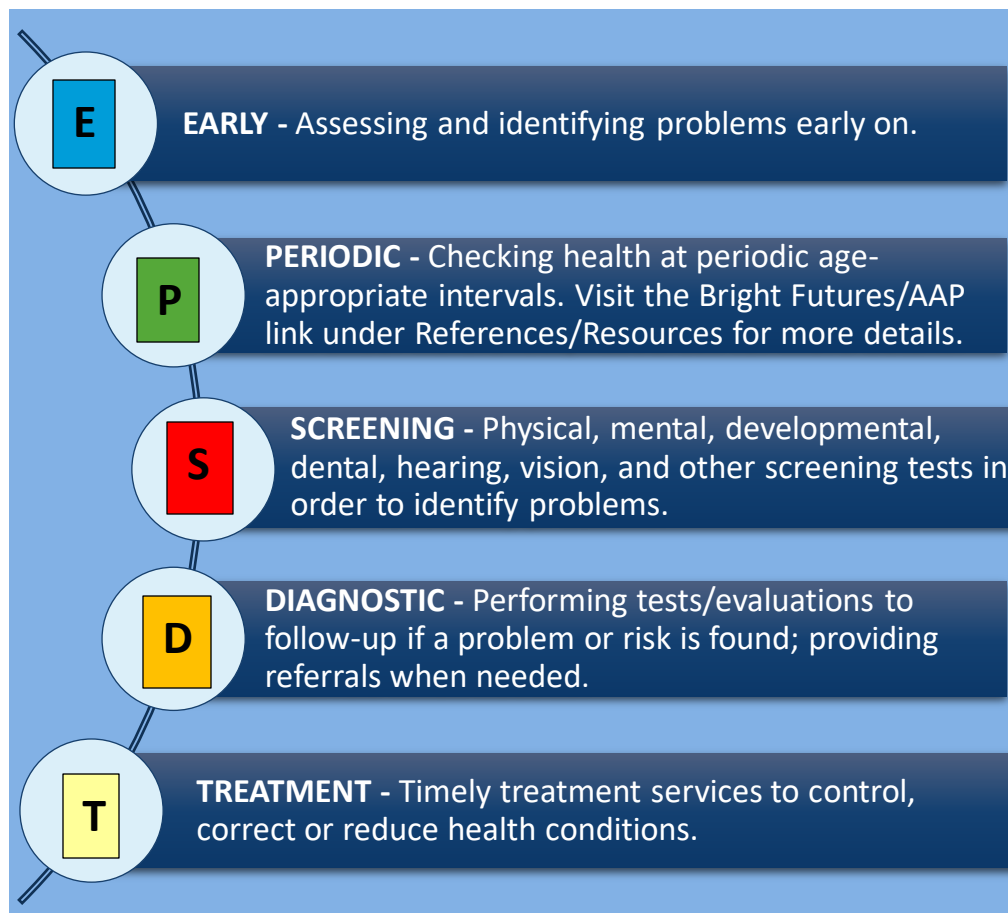


## Factsheet for Virginia's Parents Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

### EPSDT is a Medicaid Benefit for Children

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services (EPSDT)** provides a comprehensive array of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for children under age 21 who receive Medicaid (or FAMIS Plus) in Virginia. Children receiving Medicaid through Virginia's Home- and Community-Based Developmental Disabilities waivers or the CCC Plus waiver are also eligible for EPSDT.

The goal of EPSDT is to ensure children get the care they need when they need it as early as possible. If your child is under 21 and is eligible for **Cardinal Care**, Virginia's Medicaid Program, or FAMIS Plus, they are eligible for the EPSDT benefit.



### References/Resources

- [Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care](#)
- [EPSDT Fact Sheet \(Virginia DMAS\)](#)
- [EPSDT Specialized Services Guide for Providers \(Virginia DMAS\)](#)
- [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(Medicaid.gov\)](#)
- [EPSDT - A Guide for States \(Medicaid.gov\)](#)



#### Contact Us:

800-869-6782 / 703-923-0010  
partners@peatc.org

# Factsheet for Virginia's Parents

## What are Periodic Screenings?

EPSDT provides for **well visits, vaccines, developmental and sensory testing (vision, hearing)**, and more. DMAS and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) must assure children under age 3 identified with developmental delays are referred to [early intervention](#) through the **Infant & Toddler Connection**. There is a specific schedule for various screenings, vaccines, and tests called the [EPSDT Periodicity Schedule](#).

## What about When My Child is Sick or a New Problem Arises?

**Sick visits cannot be limited**, and you do not need prior authorization. Screenings may be needed outside of the periodic screening schedule to diagnose an illness or condition not found during the regular periodic screening. For example, a vision screening may be needed if a teacher notices the student can't read the smartboard.

## How are Services Accessed?

In Virginia, most people receiving Medicaid, including children, receive services through a Managed Care Organization (MCO). An MCO is a health plan where medical providers work together to provide health care to members. Some Medicaid members still receive services through a Fee for Services Plan (FFS) instead of an MCO. Your child will access EPSDT through their specific plan. Contact the member services number on the back of their insurance card for more information.

## What if Services are Denied?

You have the right to appeal decisions that deny or reduce services. Information on how to file an appeal will be listed on the denial letter from the MCO/state.

## For more information about EPSDT:

Contact your MCO ([www.virginiamanagedcare.com](http://www.virginiamanagedcare.com))

Email: [epsdt@dmass.virginia.gov](mailto:epsdt@dmass.virginia.gov)

## EPSDT Specialized Services

These are **medically necessary treatment services for children that are not routinely covered by Medicaid**.

EPSDT specialized services require authorization and a decision is made on a case-by-case basis as to whether the services is **medically necessary**.

Examples of specialized services include but are not limited to:

- Assistive technology
- Hearing Aids
- Private Duty Nursing
- Behavioral Therapy, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Personal Care Services
- Medical formula and Nutritional Services

**MCOs** cannot use a more restrictive definition of medical necessity than the state Medicaid agency (DMAS).

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools, and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

For more information about us, please contact us at 703-923-0010 or [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org).



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