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## **CHAPTER 3- EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)**

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### **The EPSDT Program for children is designed to:**

- furnish comprehensive, preventive health care through early and periodic screening
- ascertain physical and mental disabilities
- correct or ameliorate disabilities and chronic conditions discovered
- provide these services at intervals, which meet reasonable standards of practice, as specified in the Periodicity Schedule

Screening services are defined as the use of standardized tests performed under medical direction in the examination of a designated population to determine deviation from standard or to identify individuals in need of more definitive studies. CHNCT is committed to ensuring that all pediatric members receive the full range of EPSDT services. CHNCT is available to work with providers in the form of case management or outreach efforts to ensure members meet the EPSDT requirements.

### **EPSDT Screening Protocol for PCPs**

PCPs are required to conduct the screening examination based on the prescribed periodicity schedule. Screening rates will be reported to DSS on a quarterly basis. The screening examination includes:

- A comprehensive health and developmental history, including assessment of both physical and mental health, development and nutritional status;
- A comprehensive, unclothed physical exam;
- Appropriate immunizations according to age and health history;
- Laboratory tests, including anemia and lead screening at:
  - Age 9-12 months and 2 years
  - Anemia screening at age 9-12 months and 2 years
  - High risk and WIC patients at 15-18 months, 3, 4, and 5 years of age
- Health education, including anticipatory guidance and risk assessment;
- Health education, including anticipatory guidance and risk assessment;
- Vision Screening– the following breakdown is an example of the age appropriate components of a visual screening under EPSDT guidelines:
  - Acuity — 4 through 20 years of age
  - Muscle Balance — 4 through 20 years of age
  - Visual Fusion — 4 through 6 years of age
  - Hyperopia — 7 through 20 years of age
- Hearing screening, Dental screening; and
- Diagnosis and treatment of problems found during the screening.

## **Recommended Frequency of EPSDT Periodic Screenings: (See Appendix)**

- **For infants & toddlers:** Age 2 weeks, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months and 24 months
- **For Preschoolers:** Age 3 years, 4 years, 5 years and 6 years
- **Children and Adolescents:** At least every other year from age 7 through 10, then annually through age 11-20.
- **Dental Care:** Starting at 6 months. Twice each year is recommended for dental exam, parental education and/or prophylaxis and fluoride.

## **EPSDT Referrals for Diagnosis and Treatment**

After the screening, the PCP should make all required referrals for diagnosis and treatment and:

- Identify potential specialty diagnosis and treatment providers;
- Schedule appointments for diagnosis and treatment; and
- Remind members of scheduled appointments for diagnosis and treatment.

The PCP serves as the case manager in cases involving a child with complex medical needs or with serious, multiple disabilities.

## **EPSDT Outreach**

Direct outreach is a key ingredient of CHNCT's program to deliver preventive services to HUSKY A, HUSKY B and Charter Oak members. As noted, prospective EPSDT recipients must know that they are eligible, what services they are eligible for, the value of the services to them and how parents and/ or guardians can access the services. Our outreach approach is focused, appropriate for the clientele we seek to serve, and is proven effective. Our outreach activities are aimed at significantly improving Connecticut's EPSDT screening rate. CHNCT operates an affirmative and interactive outreach program that members can easily understand.

We use varied channels of communication to send a clear message to parents and guardians that their eligible children can, and should, receive free checkups to identify health problems and follow-up services to get the required diagnoses and treatment. All eligible recipients are informed about EPSDT as soon as possible.

## **EPSDT - Billing Codes**

Use the following codes when billing CHNCT. These are the only codes we can accept to track EPSDT services. The EPSDT codes may not be the same codes you used in the fee-for service system. Improper coding will negatively impact your EPSDT compliance.

### **Newborn Care**

99431 – history and examination

### **Initial Health Screenings**

The age-appropriate codes below should be used for initial screenings performed the first time you see a patient for a well-child or adolescent visit.

99381 – under age 1

99382 – age 1 through 4 years

99383 – age 5 through 11 years

99384 – age 12 through 17 years

99385 – age 18 through 20 years

## **Periodic Health Screenings**

The age appropriate codes below should be used for periodic health screenings. These periodic exams should be performed after the initial visit based on the age schedule recommended by the HealthTrack (EPSDT) Periodicity Schedule.

99391 – under age 1

99392 – age 1 through 4 years

99393 – age 5 through 11 years

99394 – age 12 through 17 years

99395 – age 18 through 20 years

## **Immunizations**

The appropriate CPT code should be used to bill for each immunization provided, even if the vaccine was provided free of charge. Through the Vaccine for Children program a fee-for-service payment is always made for vaccines. The Department of Public Health Immunization Program allows payment for administrative fees for vaccines that are provided free of charge.

90700 – 90747 – vaccine Please refer to most current VFC/DPH table for vaccines covered under the program.

## **Diagnostic Codes**

Use the preventive diagnostic codes for comprehensive health screenings listed below:

V20 (this is not a valid icd-9 code... there needs to be a fourth digit.) – Health supervision of an infant or child

V20.0 foundling

V20.1 other healthy child or infant receiving care

V20.2 – routine infant or child health check

V70 – general medical exam ( this is not a valid icd-9 code... there needs to be a fourth digit.)

V70.0 – routine general medical examination at a health care facility V72.3 – gynecological exam ( this is not a valid icd-9 code... there needs to be a fifth digit.)

V72.31 Routine gynecological exam