



Vital Updates

Population Health Management: EPSDT/ Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens

The “**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)**” program is a critical resource for Medicaid-enrolled children and adolescents under the age of 21, ensuring they receive comprehensive and preventive health care services. As of 2023, this program is known as “**Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens**” in California.

As a primary care provider (PCP), you play an essential role in delivering timely and effective care through EPSDT. You’ll conduct screenings for medical, vision, hearing, and dental health in line with the *Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Periodicity Schedule*.

What is the goal of EPSDT? To identify and address health issues early, ensuring children and adolescents receive the necessary preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services.

By federal law, EPSDT ensures that all medically necessary services are provided to correct or alleviate health conditions in eligible members. This includes:

Informing Medicaid-eligible individuals under 21 about EPSDT services and age-appropriate immunizations.

Providing or coordinating essential screening services.

Facilitating corrective treatments based on screening outcomes, either directly or through referrals.

It’s crucial to understand the EPSDT guidelines to ensure your patients access the right care at the right time and in the right setting. If you identify a need for specialized care, referrals are simple—just call **661-664-2099** or fax the **EPSDT Referral Form** to **661-617-2741**. You can also access the referral form and more information [here](#).

By engaging with the EPSDT program, you’re not just meeting a regulatory requirement—you’re actively improving health outcomes and giving children the best start in life.



BULLETINS

- [Asthma Preventative Services](#)
- [All Plan Letter 24-006: Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Services](#)
- [Updated Behavioral Health Referral Process](#)
- [Provider Portal: New Blood Lead Screening Tool](#)
- [Monthly Technical Assistance Call for ECM & CSS](#)
- [Quality and Excellence Award Nominations](#)
- [New Training: CSS & ECM Programs Training Due 12/31/2025**](#)
- [Transportation Standing Order Updates**](#)
- [Timely Access Standards](#)

The Importance of Topical Fluoride for Children

Fluoride plays a critical role in protecting children's teeth from decay, and topical fluoride is one of the most effective tools in preventative dental care. According to the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA), professionally applied topical fluoride treatments are a safe and evidence-based method to strengthen enamel and prevent cavities, especially in children at moderate to high risk for dental caries.

Topical fluoride comes in forms like varnishes, gels, and foams that are applied directly to the teeth. These treatments work by remineralizing enamel and making teeth more resistant to acid attacks from plaque bacteria and sugars. The DQA emphasizes that fluoride varnish is particularly beneficial for children under 6, as it is quick to apply, well-tolerated, and has a strong track record of reducing decay.



Data-driven performance measures from the DQA highlight the importance of increasing access to topical fluoride applications. Regular treatments – typically every 3 to 6 months – can dramatically reduce the burden of dental disease and associated costs.

Providers are encouraged to speak with parents and caregivers about fluoride treatment as part of a comprehensive prevention plan. By prioritizing topical fluoride families can set a strong foundation for lifelong oral health. For more insights and evidence-based guidelines, click [here](#).

Topical fluoride treatments are covered by Medi-Cal up to three times per year through the age of five. Please use **CPT code 99188**. For a list of commonly used codes, please see the *KHS Coding Card: Common Codes for 2025 MCAS Measures*

For information regarding training opportunities, please contact **Cassandra Mulder** at mulderc@kerncounty.com. Cassandra is a supervising public health nurse in Kern County who provides training for this type of dental service for medical providers.

Please reference the Provider Guide in the Provider Portal for more information regarding the TFL measure: *2025 MCAS Provider Resource Guide*.

New July Vendors

ABA PROVIDER

- SABA Therapy Center LLC

ANESTHESIOLOGY / FACILITY BASED

- John DeRouen MD Inc.

APS PROGRAM

- Central California Asthma Collaborative
- SD Healthcare Consulting LLC

CHW PROGRAM

- Hunger Not Impossible Inc. (DBA: Bento)
- Modify Health Inc.

PHARMACY

- El Tejon Healthcare Inc. (DBA: El Tejon Pharmacy 1)

CSS - HOUSING TRIO

- Chaparral Medical Group Inc. (DBA: Akido)

DIALYSIS CENTER

- SRS-Ridgecrest (DBA: Sanderling Dialysis of Ridgecrest)

DOULA

- Melancentric LLC

ECM CASE MANAGEMENT

- Chris E Esguerra MD PC (DBA: Esteem Health PSC)

HOME HEALTH

- THV Consultant INC (DBA: TVH Lighthouse Home Health)

HOSPICE/PALLIATIVE CARE

- A-Z Hospice Care 366D 247
- Lenus Care LLC

SNF

- Campus Community Healthcare, LLC (DBA: Arvin Post Acute)

welcome

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