

Medicaid Services Manual  
Transmittal Letter

November 28, 2023

To: Custodians of Medicaid Services Manual

From: Casey Angres **Casey Angres**  
Chief of Division Compliance

Subject: Medicaid Services Manual Changes  
Chapter 1500 – Healthy Kids Program

**Background And Explanation**

Revisions to Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 1500 – Healthy Kids Program are being proposed to remove language for pregnancy only related coverage.

Throughout the chapter, grammar, punctuation and capitalization changes were made, duplications removed, acronyms used and standardized, and language reworded for clarity. Renumbering and re-arranging of sections was necessary.

Entities Financially Affected: These proposed changes affect all Medicaid enrolled providers delivering Healthy Kid Exams, annual wellness visits, and sick visits. Those Provider Types (PT) include but are not limited to: Outpatient Hospital (PT 12), Physician (PT 20), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (PT 24), and Physician Assistant (PT 77).

Financial Impact on Local Government: None.

These changes are effective November 29, 2023.

| <b>Material Transmitted</b>                          | <b>Material Superseded</b>                          |
|--|---|
| MTL 16/23<br>MSM Chapter 1500 – Healthy Kids Program | MTL17/22<br>MSM Chapter 1500 – Healthy Kids Program |

| <b>Manual Section</b> | <b>Section Title</b>            | <b>Background and Explanation of Policy Changes, Clarifications and Updates</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>1503.8</b>         | <b>Pregnancy Related Only</b>   | Remove section  |
| <b>1503.8A</b>        | <b>Coverage and Limitations</b> | Remove section  |

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL  
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| MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL                     | Subject:<br>INTRODUCTION |

1500 INTRODUCTION

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services are preventive and diagnostic services available to most recipients under age 21 years old. In Nevada, the EPSDT Program is known as Healthy Kids. The program is designed to identify medical conditions and to provide medically necessary treatment to correct such conditions. Healthy Kids offers the opportunity for optimum health status for children through regular, preventive health services and the early detection and treatment of disease.

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1501 AUTHORITY

- A. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services are a mandatory benefit under the Medicaid program for categorically needy individuals under age 21 years old.

Services available under the Healthy Kids Program are provided as defined in the following:

1. Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989;
2. Social Security Act 1905 (a) and (r);
3. Social Security Act 1902 (a);
4. Social Security Act 1903 (i);
5. 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart B, 441.50 – 441.62;
6. State Medicaid Manual (Part 5); and
7. Nevada Medicaid’s State Plan.

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1502          RESERVED

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1503 POLICY

1503.1 EARLY PERIODIC SCREENINGS

A child’s health is assessed as early as possible in the child’s life, in order to prevent or find potential diseases and disabilities in their early stages, when they are most effectively treated. Assessment of a child’s health at regularly scheduled intervals assures that a condition, illness or injury is not developing or present. The Healthy Kids Program has established a periodicity schedule for screening, vision, hearing and dental services based upon the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The periodicity schedule utilized by the Healthy Kids Program can be found at the Bright Futures/AAP website: <http://brightfutures.aap.org>.

1503.1A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. The Healthy Kids Program encourages providers to follow the recommended schedule for developmental screenings offered by the AAP. Recipients will be sent letters by the Division’s Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)-like vendor reminding them to schedule a screening visit on a periodic basis.
2. Dental services are outlined in Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 1000, Dental. Dental services can occur at intervals outside the established periodicity schedule when indicated as medically necessary to determine the existence of a suspected illness or condition. At a minimum, they must include relief of pain and infection, restoration of teeth, and maintenance of dental health. Generally, dental services should be age-appropriate and must be provided at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical practice as recognized by medical organizations involved with child health care.
3. Vision services are outlined in MSM Chapter 1100, Ocular Services. Vision services can occur at intervals outside the established periodicity schedule when indicated as medically necessary to determine the existence of a suspected illness or condition. At a minimum, services must include diagnosis and treatment for defects in vision, including eyeglasses. Generally, vision services should be age-appropriate and must be provided at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical practice as recognized by medical organizations involved with child health care.
4. Hearing services are outlined in MSM Chapter 2000, Audiology Services. Hearing services can occur at intervals outside the established periodicity schedule when indicated as medically necessary to determine the existence of a suspected illness or condition. At a minimum, services should be age-appropriate and must include diagnosis and treatment for defects in hearing including hearing aids. Generally, hearing services must be provided at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical practice as recognized by medical organizations involved with child health care.

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1503.1B PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITY

1. The provider is expected to follow the periodicity guidelines as recommended when conducting Healthy Kids examinations whenever possible. The provider should offer services as deemed medically appropriate.
2. The provider shall determine whether a screening request is medically necessary when it falls outside the periodicity schedule and will conduct the intervention necessary to address the suspected medical problems.
3. The provider should assure the elements listed in Section 1503.3A are included in a screening examination. The provider should seek out and incorporate information regarding the child’s usual functioning from parents, teachers and others familiar with the child when conducting an examination. Medical records should document the assessments and significant positive and negative findings. Discussions with the child and family about the findings should be an integral part of every examination and documented as well. A referral to another Medicaid provider should occur if the provider is unable to perform any screening component. EPSDT screening forms and EPSDT Participation Reports can be found on the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) website: <https://dhcfp.nv.gov/Pgms/CPT/EPSDT/>.
4. Medical records should contain the following information specific to EPSDT screening services:
  - a. Reason for the visit;
  - b. The date screening services were performed, the specific tests or procedures performed, the results of these tests and the person who provided the service;
  - c. Documentation of medical contraindication or a written statement from a parent or a guardian of a screened child, for whom vaccinations were due and not given and attempts the screening provider made to bring the child up-to-date on vaccinations;
  - d. Identification of any screening component not completed, the medical contraindication or other reason why it could not be completed, and attempts the screening provider made to complete the screening;
  - e. Documentation of a medical contraindication or other reason for delay in vision or hearing screening if not performed on the same day as the medical screening;
  - f. Documentation of declination of screening services by the parent;
  - g. Referrals made for diagnosis, treatment or other medically necessary health services for conditions found in the screenings;

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- h. Date the next screening is due; and
  - i. Documentation of direct referral for age-appropriate dental services.
5. Providers should submit claims using the established billing codes related to the Healthy Kids screening examination. These examination codes can be found in the Medicaid Billing Guides, for Provider Types (PTs) 20 and 24 and 77, located at: [www.medicaid.nv.gov/providers/BillingInfo.aspx](http://www.medicaid.nv.gov/providers/BillingInfo.aspx).
  6. The provider should make referrals for diagnostic testing after discussing the need for such services with the recipient/parent/legal guardian during a post screening interview. The physician's progress notes should indicate the need for such testing.
  7. A dated written referral should be given to the recipient or parents or forwarded to the referral service provider. The referral should include the following information:
    - a. The name of the child;
    - b. The Medicaid ID number of the child;
    - c. The date of the screening;
    - d. The abnormality noted;
    - e. The name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the child's primary physician if different from the screening provider; and
    - f. The physician to whom the referral applies if known.
  8. The provider should advise recipients of possible resources for obtaining testing as appropriate.

1503.2 INTERPERIODIC SCREENINGS

Healthy Kids screenings are provided to all eligible persons under the age of 21 years old, which may include medically necessary intervals that are outside an established periodicity schedule, also known as interperiodic screenings.

1503.2A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. The DHCFP has identified a periodicity schedule that allows for access to screening, vision, hearing and dental services at intervals which meet reasonable standards of medical practice. The periodicity schedule can be found at the Bright Futures/AAP website: <http://brightfutures.aap.org>.



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2. A recipient may request a health care screening or any component of the health screening at any time. Screening services which are medically necessary, such as when a new health problem has occurred or when a previously diagnosed condition has become more severe or changed sufficiently to require a new examination, will be offered, regardless of whether the request falls into the periodicity schedule established by the State.

### 1503.3 COMPREHENSIVE SCREENING EXAMINATION

A comprehensive child health assessment is provided to determine if a child has a condition, illness or injury that should be referred for further evaluation and/or treatment. A Healthy Kids screening examination must comply with 1905(r) of the Social Security Act (SSA). [http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm).

### 1503.3A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. Screening services are designed to evaluate the general physical and mental health, growth, development and nutritional status of infants, children and adolescents.

The following is a description of each of the required age-appropriate screening components:

- a. **COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HISTORY**

At the initial screening, the provider must obtain a comprehensive health, developmental/behavioral, mental health and nutritional history from the child's parents or a responsible adult familiar with the child, or directly from an adolescent, when appropriate. This history should be gathered through an interview or questionnaire. A comprehensive initial history includes a review of the:

1. Family medical history (health of the parents and current family members, identification of family members with chronic, communicable or hereditary diseases);
2. Patient medical history (prenatal problems, neonatal problems, developmental milestones, serious illnesses, surgeries, hospitalizations, allergies, current health problems and medications);
3. Nutritional history;
4. Vaccination history;
5. Environmental risk;

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6. Family background of emotional problems, problems with drinking or drugs, or history of violence or abuse;
7. Patient history of behavioral and/or emotional problems;
8. History of sexual activity, if appropriate; and
9. Menstrual and obstetrical history for females, if appropriate.

b. DEVELOPMENTAL/BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

1. Assessment of developmental and behavioral status should be completed at each visit by observation, interview, history and appropriate physical examination. The developmental assessment should include a range of activities to determine whether or not the child has reached an age-appropriate level of development.
2. Nevada Medicaid will reimburse separately for developmental screenings, provided that a valid, standardized developmental screening tool, (i.e. Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS), Ages and Stages, Early Language Milestone Screen) has been utilized and entered into the child's health care record. Although the AAP recommends the use of a standardized screening tool at ages nine, 18 and 30 months, and three and four years of age, the exact frequency of standardized testing depends on the clinical setting and provider's judgment as to medical necessity. Asking questions about development as part of the general informal developmental survey or history is not a "standardized screening" and is not separately reportable. Providers may be subject to a random audit of records to assure the use of the screening tool. For billing instructions, see the PTs 20, 24, and 77 Billing Guides at:  
<http://www.medicaid.nv.gov/providers/Billinginfo.aspx>

c. COMPREHENSIVE UNCLOTHED PHYSICAL EXAM

A completed unclothed physical examination must be performed at each screening visit. The examination must be conducted using observation, palpation, auscultation and other appropriate techniques. The examination must include all body parts and systems listed below:

1. Cranium and face;
2. Hair and scalp;
3. Ears;

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4. Eyes;
5. Nose;
6. Throat;
7. Mouth and teeth;
8. Neck;
9. Skin and lymph nodes;
10. Chest and back;
11. Abdomen;
12. Genitalia;
13. Musculoskeletal system;
14. Extremities; and
15. Nervous system.
16. The examination should include screening for congenital abnormalities and responses to voices and other external stimuli.

d. APPROPRIATE VACCINATIONS

1. The child's vaccination status must be reviewed each screening visit. Appropriate vaccinations that are due must be administered during the screening visit and according to the schedule established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for pediatric vaccines: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>.
2. Nevada Medicaid cannot reimburse for vaccines (except administration fees) that are available through the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) as part of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Providers and pharmacies must enroll with the VFC Program which provides the VFC vaccines at no cost to eligible children. Medicaid cannot be billed for the cost of a vaccine obtained through VFC, (even if the provider is not enrolled with VFC) unless there is a documented statewide shortage. To become a VFC provider, please access the website via [https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/VFC/VFC\\_-\\_Home/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/VFC/VFC_-_Home/).

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3. Nevada Check Up (NCU) provides the same vaccines through a different funding source, but providers must use the same billing guidelines.
4. For specific guidelines for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, please refer to MSM Chapter 1200, Prescribed Drugs.

e. LABORATORY PROCEDURES

Age-appropriate laboratory procedures must be performed at intervals in accordance with the Healthy Kids periodicity schedule. These include blood lead level assessment appropriate to age and risk, urinalysis, Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), Sickle-cell, hemoglobin or hematocrit and other tests and procedures that are age-appropriate and medically necessary, such as pap smears.

f. HEALTH EDUCATION

1. Health education related to the physical assessment should be provided at each screening visit. It is designed to help children and their parents understand the health status of the child as well as provide information which emphasizes health promotion and preventive strategies. Health education explains the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, prevention of disease and accidents, normal growth and development and age-appropriate family planning services.
2. Anticipatory guidance should be offered which includes discussion of information on what to expect in the child's current and next developmental phase. It is given in anticipation of health problems or decisions which may occur before the next periodicity visit.
3. Information should also include a summarization of the results of the screening and laboratory tests, review of the child's health status and discussion regarding any specific problems detected in the screening.

g. VISION SCREENING

The purpose is to detect potentially blinding diseases and visual impairments, such as congenital abnormalities and malformations, eye diseases, color blindness and refractive errors. The screening should include distance visual acuity, color perception and ocular alignment tests. The vision screening is part of the complete physical examination and should be given by age three years old. Screening for amblyopia may be separately reimbursed.

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h. HEARING SCREENING

The purpose is to detect sensorineural and conductive hearing loss, congenital abnormalities, noise-induced hearing loss, central auditory problems or a history of conditions that may increase the risk for potential hearing loss. The examination must include information about the child’s response to voice and other auditory stimuli, speech and language development and specific factors or health problems that place a child at risk for hearing loss.

i. DENTAL SCREENING

An oral inspection must be performed by the screening provider as part of each physical examination for a child screened at any age. Tooth eruption, caries, bottle tooth decay, developmental anomalies, malocclusion, pathological conditions or dental injuries should be noted. The oral inspection is not a substitute for a complete dental screening examination provided by a dentist. An initial dental referral should be provided for children three years or older unless it is known that the child is already receiving regular dental care. When the screening indicates a need for dental services at an earlier age, referral must be made. The importance of regular dental care should be discussed with the family (and the child as appropriate) on each screening visit for children three years and older.

2. Vaccines and laboratory tests should be billed separately from the screening visit. Objective vision and hearing testing performed during the same visit as the physical examination should not be billed separately, with the exception of testing for amblyopia. If hearing and vision testing needs to be performed separately from the exam, these procedures should be billed as outlined in applicable MSM chapters.
3. Nevada Medicaid may cover “sick” visits and a Healthy Kids examination for the same recipient, at the same time of service, and with the same provider. All screening elements must be completed during a Healthy Kids examination as indicated in the Periodicity Schedule/Bright Future and Section 1503.3A of this chapter. Appropriate diagnosis must be billed for each respective visit
  - a. Vaccines may be administered during a sick visit at the medical professionals’ discretion.

1503.4 DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Nevada Medicaid provides diagnostic services as indicated through a Healthy Kids screening.

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1503.4A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. Any condition discovered during a screening should be followed up for diagnosis. Prior authorization is not necessary for these diagnostic examinations if they are part of or referred through a Healthy Kids screening. Referrals can include but are not limited to:
  - a. Vision Services.
  - b. Dental Services.
  - c. Hearing Services.
  - d. Other Necessary Health Care.
2. Although preferred, a Healthy Kids screening is not a requirement for medically necessary diagnostic services.

1503.5 TREATMENT

Nevada Medicaid provides for medically necessary treatment as indicated through a Healthy Kids screening and diagnosis.

1503.5A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

1. Health care and treatment is available to correct or improve defects and physical and mental illnesses or conditions discovered by Healthy Kids screening and diagnostic services. Covered services include all mandatory and optional services that a state can cover under the benefit plan, whether or not such services are covered for adults. The scope of medical services available are described in the SSA, Section 1905(a).
2. Services that are not medical in nature, including educational interventions, are excluded. Treatment must be medically necessary and prior authorized if not typically included in the benefit plan. The QIO-like vendor will review the suggested treatment to ensure it meets with current medical practice standards for the given diagnosis.
3. When treatment is needed to correct or improve identified conditions, the DHCFP's established requirements for prior authorization apply. See the MSM Chapters related to the requested service to determine if prior authorization is needed before treatment is rendered.
4. Although it is preferred, a Healthy Kids screening is not a requirement for medically necessary treatment under EPSDT guidelines (SSA, Section 1905(r)).

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1503.6 FAMILY PLANNING

Family planning services are available to recipients.

1503.6A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

Family planning information should be offered during a Healthy Kids examination as appropriate and requested.

1503.7 TRANSPORTATION

Assistance with transportation is available to and from a Healthy Kids examination. Please reference MSM Chapter 1900, Transportation Services.

1503.7A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

Nevada Medicaid pays for transportation in order for a recipient to receive medically necessary care and services. Transportation requires prior authorization in all but emergency situations. The guidelines outlined in MSM Chapter 1900 should be followed.

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1504 HEARINGS

Please reference MSM Chapter 3100 for Medicaid Recipient Hearing process policy.



ATTACHMENT A

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|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| POLICY #15-1 | CLINICAL STUDIES | EFFECTIVE DATE:<br>November 1/ 2014 |
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For policy related to clinical studies, please refer to MSM 600 – Physician Services, Attachment A, Policy #6-01, Qualifying Clinical Trials (QCT).

ATTACHMENT A

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| POLICY #15-2 | EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT | EFFECTIVE DATE:<br>November 1/ 2014 |
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For policy related to experimental treatment, please refer to MSM 600 – Physician Services, Attachment A, Policy #6-01, Qualifying Clinical Trials (QCT).