



## Fact Sheet:



# Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

## What is EPSDT?

EPSDT is a federally mandated Medicaid program for full-scope Medi-Cal beneficiaries under age 21. Under this program, the State pays for any medically necessary procedure or treatment to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical illness, mental illness, or a condition even if the service or item is not otherwise included in the State's Medicaid program.

(Source: Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 51184; 51242; 51340; 51532)

## DMC Services Youth Commonly Receive

- Outpatient Drug Free (ODF) counseling (group);
- Individual counseling that is limited to intake, crisis intervention, collateral services and treatment/discharge planning;
- Day Care Rehabilitative services;
- Perinatal Residential services for youth under 21 who are either pregnant or postpartum; and
- Narcotic Replacement Therapy (if he/she is 18 or over or is an emancipated minor).

## Supplemental Individual ODF Counseling

Under DMC EPSDT, providers can also request a supplemental service benefit for full-scope DMC beneficiaries under 21 called "Supplemental Individual Outpatient Drug Free Counseling for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems." Providers must request prior authorization for this supplemental benefit from the California Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS will determine the rates for this supplemental service and will reimburse the clinics that are lawfully entitled to provide EPSDT Supplemental Individual ODF counseling.

## How to Receive Prior Authorization for EPSDT Supplemental Services under DMC

To receive authorization to provide the supplementary service, providers prepare a one-page justification form called a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR). The provider should then send the TAR to the appropriate DHS field office for approval. Please contact Electronic Data Systems at 1-800-541-5555 or (916) 636-1000 to find out which DHS field office your county should submit TARs.

The TAR must specify the elements listed below:

- There are issues the youth is reluctant to discuss in a group ODF session;

- Progress is not being made in the group ODF sessions and the youth needs additional services;
- There is a clearly documented need for individual counseling;
- The frequency and duration of the proposed supplemental services;
- The goal of treatment is identified; and
- Anticipated progress is measurable.

DHS has 30 days to review the TAR, approve it as requested, approve it as modified, ask for further information, or deny the request. If the request is denied, the provider can appeal within 60 calendar days of notification.

### **Who Can Provide EPSDT Services**

DMC-certified providers can provide EPSDT services. Only DMC-certified ODF providers are permitted to provide EPSDT Supplemental Individual counseling services.

### **What is the Difference between Minor Consent and EPSDT?**

Minor consent is a state-only program for youth, under age 21, who are living with their parent(s) or guardian(s), to receive limited services without parental knowledge or consent and without regard to their families' income level. Minor consent services are related to:

1. Sexual assault.
2. Drug or alcohol abuse for children age 12 or older.
3. Pregnancy.
4. Family planning.
5. Venereal disease for children age 12 or older.

6. Sexually transmitted designated by the Director [of DHS] for children age 12 or older.
7. Mental health care for children 12 years of age or older who are mature enough to participate intelligently and which is needed to prevent the children from seriously harming themselves or others because the children are the alleged victims of incest or child abuse.

The drug and alcohol abuse treatment services are primarily ODF counseling services. The child must re-apply for minor consent services monthly. Children receiving minor consent services are not eligible for EPSDT supplemental services.

(Source: Title 22, CCR, Sections 50147.1; 50063.5; 50157(f)(3); 50167(a)(6)(D); 50703(d))