

EPSDT/Bright Futures

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), also known as Bright Futures services, are federally-mandated preventive care services for Medicaid members under age 21.

All primary care providers (PCPs) are required to provide these comprehensive health care, screening and preventive services for children.

Required EPSDT/Bright Futures screening services

Immunizations and assessment of diet, activity, growth, weight and BMI percentiles are services that occur at a well-child visit. Specific screenings should also occur at certain ages and stages of development. Aetna Better Health® of Illinois participating providers must make these screening services available to EPSDT-eligible members at the ages recommended on the [EPSDT/Bright Futures periodicity schedule](#).



- **Anemia screening:** between 9 and 12 months.
- **Blood lead screening:** All children should receive an initial screening blood lead test at 12 and 24 months. Children between the ages of 36 months/3 years and 72 months/6 years with no history of a previous blood lead screening test are required to have blood lead screening documented in their medical record.
- **Dyslipidemia screening:** once between 9 and 11 years and once between 17 and 20 years; other ages should be screened if indicated by history and/or symptoms.
- **Visual acuity screening:** annually, ages 3-21.
- **Hearing screening:** annually, ages 3-21.
- **Structured autism screening:** 18 months old and 24 months old. [See examples of validated screening tools for autism and developmental delays](#).
- **Structured developmental screening:** between 9 and 11 months old, again at 18 months old and again at 30 months old, using a validated screening tool.

Document all screenings and developmental surveillances in the medical record, including follow-ups, results and anticipatory guidance given. The medical record must document that a developmental screening was performed with a validated screening tool at 9-11 months, 18 months and 30 months.



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Dental screening

Dental risk assessments and referral to a dental home are required for **EPSDT/Bright Futures** visits at ages **12 months, 18 months, 24 months and 30 months** — and annually thereafter — or as indicated by the child’s risk or susceptibility to disease. See our Oral Health Care educational material for additional details about PCPs and dental care.



Required codes

When billing an EPSDT/Bright Futures visit, use the appropriate well-care CPT code, along with the Modifier “EP” to indicate a comprehensive EPSDT/Bright Futures visit. All associated screening and lab codes should also be submitted.

- **Well-care visit:** 99381-99385 (new patients), 99391-99395 (established patients) Add EP Modifier when full EPSDT visit has been performed.
- **Anemia screening:** 85018
- **Behavioral/social/emotional screening:** 96127
- **Blood lead testing:** 83655
- **Dental referral:** YD
- **Depression screening:** 91610 (annually ages 12 -21)
- **Dyslipidemia screening:** 80061, 82465, 83718, 84478
- **Hearing screening:** 92551, 92552
- **Maternal depression screening:** 96161 (newborn visit through 6-month visit)
- **Structured autism screening:** 96110 U1
- **Structured developmental screening:** 96110
- **Visual acuity screening:** 99173



EPSDT/Bright Futures screenings not requiring coding

- **Developmental surveillance:** newborn up to 21 years, every EPSDT visit except where structured developmental screening is required
- **Psychosocial/behavioral assessment:** newborn up to 21 years, every EPSDT visit
- **Tobacco, alcohol and drug use assessment:** annually through risk assessment, ages 11 up to 21



Ordering EPSDT testing

If indicated by history and/or symptoms, you can order the following tests as part of EPSDT/Bright Futures:

- **Anemia** (age 15 months up to 21 years)
- **Dyslipidemia**
- **HIV screening** (age 11 up to 21 years)
- **Sexually transmitted infections**
- **Sickle cell**
- **Tuberculin test**

Numerator codes

There is a large list of approved NCQA codes used to identify the services included in EPSDT/Bright Futures. For a complete list, refer to the [NCQA website](#).



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Referring suspected problems with development

Any suspected developmental problem for a child who is not already receiving Early Intervention Services should be referred to the Illinois Early Intervention Automated Helpline. Call **1-800-323-4769** for appropriate referral to local Early Intervention Services including specialists for further diagnosis and treatment.



Early Intervention Services may include:

- Assistive technology devices
- Audiology and hearing services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Speech and language services



EPSDT/Bright Futures referral codes

When you make a referral, enter the EPSDT referral code into line 10d of the CMS 1500.

- YD - Dental referral
- YM - Medical referral
- YB - Behavioral health referral
- YV - Vision referral
- YH - Hearing referral
- YO - Other referral



Tips for EPSDT improvement

- **Educate staff** to schedule visits within the guideline timeframes.
- **Contact parents** to schedule their child's well-child exam.
- **Exam requirements** can be met during sick visits or a well-child exam.
- **Use NCQA coding tips** to accurately reflect care rendered.

