
Improving Care for Children

Illinois Health Connect is working to improve preventive care for children. EPSDT (Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) is the federal name for healthcare for kids (up to age 21) including both preventive care and treatment of disease. Through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the EPSDT program is called “Healthy Kids”. The Healthy Kids Chapter 200 Handbook is the best reference available to assist providers in understanding the components of EPSDT, appropriate billing and coding and resources available for coordinating care for kids. **You can download a copy from the HFS website at <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/032008hk200.pdf>.** All recommendations included in the Handbook are standard clinical recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. HFS provides additional reimbursement for many of the recommended EPSDT components. **For questions, please contact your Provider Service Representative or IHC Quality Assurance Nurse at 1-877-912-1999.**

A comprehensive check-up or well-child-exam includes ALL of the following components:

- Unclothed exam
 - According to the AAP periodicity schedule
- Objective developmental screening*
 - One each year for 1st, 2nd and 3rd yr of life
- Oral health screening
 - Screen each child; refer to Dentaquest (1-888-286-2447) or other dentist as appropriate
- Hearing screening*
 - Objective screening recommended yearly for ages 4-6 and then at age 8 and 10 years
- Vision screening*
 - Use Snellen charts in office for ages 3 through 6, and age 8, 10, 12, 15 and 18
 - IL law requires all children entering Kindergarten to get eye exam by ophthalmologist or optometrist
- Risk assessments*
 - Screening for social and emotional development
- Lab tests for anemia and lead*
 - Anemia testing ages 9-12 months, lead test before age 1 and again before age 2 unless in Chicago then more often
- Immunizations*
 - According to CDC schedule

***Those marked with the asterisk have additional reimbursement available when performed and coded correctly.**

IHC is helping PCPs in providing EPSDT services to HFS clients by giving PCPs the following tools:

1. Monthly Panel Roster: shows whether a child is due for a WCC, developmental screening, lead screening or vision screening. The Panel Rosters are updated from submitted claims, and can be downloaded in an electronic format from the MEDI system.
2. Access to Claims History via the MEDI system: PCPs can confirm what prescriptions have been filled, review immunization history and view all claims for the past 2 years including ED visits and claims submitted by other providers.
3. Semi-annual Provider Profiles: Profiles assess the following clinical measures: immunization rates, developmental screening rates, use of asthma controller medicines for patients with persistent asthma, diabetes monitoring with HgbA1C, WCC in the first 15 months of life, WCC for ages 3 to 6, rates of vision screening, rates of lead screening, rates of adolescent well-care and rates of pap smears and mammograms for adult patients.

IHC helping to improve healthcare for children by providing the following services to clients:

1. IHC representatives are checking to see if recipients are due for a Healthy Kids visit after enrolling with their PCP of choice. IHC representatives assist interested callers with making an appointment by doing a three way call with the PCP office. IHC tracks appointments scheduled and sends reminders to households.
2. IHC annually reminds both children and adults about the importance of a yearly check-up.
3. IHC performs outbound calls to households where recipients have appointments due with an offer to assist them with scheduling appointments.

There is already a bonus payment for doctors who provide the recommended number of well-child visits. The bonus payment is \$30 per year per child who meets the requirements. The bonus requirements are:

6 visits from ages 10 days to 1 year (E.g. 2 wks, 1 mo, 2 mos, 4 mos, 6 mos, 9 mos)

3 visits from ages 1 year to 2 years (E.g. 12 mo, 15 mos, 18 mos)

1 yearly visit ages 2 through 5 years

Illinois Health Connect Bonus Payments for High Performance

In 2008, HFS announced that Bonus Payments would be available for care that meets certain quality criteria. The clinical measures are: immunization rates for 2 year olds, developmental screening, asthma management with controller medications, diabetes management with annual Hgb A1C testing and breast cancer screening. A total of \$2.8 million was distributed to IHC PCPs for care provided in 2008 that met or exceeded the quality standards and a total of \$3.2 million was distributed for care provided in 2009. More information about the Bonus Payment program is available on the Illinois Health Connect website at www.illinoishealthconnect.com under the Quality Tools section. The IHC QA Nurse can review the quality measures and payments with individual IHC PCPs and assist in QI strategies to optimize care.