

FACT SHEET

Healthchek

What is Healthchek?

The federal government requires state Medicaid programs to provide a comprehensive and preventative benefit package for children and young adults younger than age 21. The federal government calls this Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. Ohio Medicaid calls its EPSDT Program Healthchek. Healthchek provides greater availability and accessibility to child health care and assists in the effective use of resources. Healthchek provides the following services:

- **Screening Services:** These include a comprehensive health and developmental history, which assesses both physical and mental health. This is conducted by a Medicaid-qualified physician or advanced practice nurse who screens for potential health problems (vision, dental, hearing, nutrition, and a child's general physical health). The provider will also do any necessary laboratory tests, immunizations, blood lead screening, and provide health education, nutritional advice and referrals to other health providers.
- **Vision, Dental and Hearing Services:** Once a referral has been made by a doctor, teacher, parent or any responsible adult, a child may receive diagnosis and treatment from a medical provider for vision, dental and hearing problems- all of which can be billed to Medicaid. These screenings may be performed by the child's general practitioner and if a problem is not identified, no further screenings are necessary at that time.
- **Additional Services:** If a screening reveals a medical condition, Medicaid can be billed for any necessary health service provided on a later date to treat the child's medical condition.

Healthchek Implementation

The key to a successful Healthchek program is the combination of the work and programs of many health care and social service groups. The following individuals and groups contribute to Healthchek's success:

- **County Healthchek Coordinators:** Every Ohio county has a Healthchek coordinator who is responsible for informing consumers of the benefits available to them and supporting the coordination of non-medical support services. Support services a Medicaid consumer may need include: transportation, referral to a domestic abuse center, assistance from a food pantry and lead-free housing options. The Healthchek coordinator collaborates with non-profit organizations, other government agencies and the consumer's caseworker to help meet the needs for every Medicaid consumer who is Healthchek eligible.

- **Healthchek Providers:** The provider's responsibility is to perform screenings, make referrals and bill Medicaid for Healthchek services. Any Medicaid provider can be a Healthchek provider if an applicable Healthchek service is provided.
- **Pregnancy-Related Services:** The Healthchek coordinator maintains close ties to the county's Pregnancy- Related Services (PRS) program. The PRS coordinator assists pregnant consumers in much the same way Healthchek coordinators assist children, and is able to provide pregnant women with Healthchek information before a child is born. Many Healthchek coordinators are also the county PRS coordinator. This provides many mothers with the same source of information about prenatal care and their child's health.

Healthchek and Managed Care

Healthchek services are a part of the benefit package every managed care plan offers its consumers. Managed care plans are not contractually required to provide social-service assistance, but some may. If a consumer is unable to receive a required service from his or her managed care plan, the county department of job and family services (CDJFS) will help the consumer make other arrangements to receive the service.

The coordination of support services for Healthchek-eligible consumers enrolled in managed care remains the Healthchek coordinator's responsibility. CDJFS offices are required to facilitate a relationship with the managed care plans in their region to ensure open communication among complimentary service programs. In addition to opening the lines of communication, some Healthchek coordinators have created work groups to address issues, solve problems and increase the amount of children who receive regular Healthchek screenings.

Healthchek and Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

Healthchek is for every Medicaid-eligible child in Ohio; as such, children who are on Medicaid waivers can still receive Healthchek services. However, Healthchek does not include long-term care services a child on a waiver may require. In addition, children who are on a waiver may still receive the non-medical services available through Healthchek.

The Future of Healthchek

As Ohio's Medicaid program evolves, Healthchek will require continuous evaluation. The current objectives for the Healthchek program are to increase utilization, improve quality of services and increase coordination with sister agencies. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is examining issues surrounding the statewide expansion of managed care in order to provide all Medicaid-eligible children with the opportunity to access quality health care. Additionally, ODJFS is collaborating with its sister agencies to make improvements to the Healthchek program.

For brochures on Healthchek and other Medicaid programs (in English, Spanish and Somali), please visit: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/infodata/publications.stm>