



Louisiana Department of Health
Health Plan Advisory 16-16
July 11, 2016

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Personal Care Services Policy Clarification

This Health Plan Advisory provides clarification on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program Personal Care Services (PCS) Rule, and guidance on how to determine medical necessity for these services. This advisory supersedes all previous guidance provided, written and/or verbal.

The *Louisiana Administrative Code*, Title 50, Part XV, Subpart 5, Chapter 73, Section 7301, defines EPSDT PCS as follows:

Tasks which are medically necessary as they pertain to an EPSDT eligible's physical requirements when physical limitations due to illness or injury necessitate assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, bladder or bowel requirements.

EPSDT PCS services prevent institutionalization and enable the recipient to be treated on an outpatient basis, rather than an inpatient basis, to the extent that services on an outpatient basis are projected to be more cost effective than services provided on an inpatient basis.

Persons under the age of 21 (child/youth), for whom the services are intended, must have a condition(s) that causes him/her not to be capable of completing at least two age-appropriate activities of daily living (ADL). ADLs include eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene and bladder or bowel requirements. The emphasis must be placed on whether the child/youth is capable of completing the ADLs independently. Reminding or prompting the child/youth to complete these daily tasks does not meet medical necessity criteria for the service.

Also, the provision of EPSDT PCS is based on whether the child is able to perform two or more age-appropriate ADLs. It is not based on whether the child has a physical disability.

The service is not a substitute for child care, nor is it to provide respite for the parent or caregiver.

When determining if EPSDT PCS is medically necessary, focus must be placed on the needs of the child/youth and not the availability or needs of the parent/caregiver.