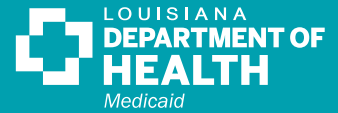


A Guide to Aging Out of EPSDT (Children's) Benefits for Medicaid Members Turning 21



If you or a family member has Medicaid and is about to turn 21, your healthcare services will change. This guide will help you understand and prepare for those changes.

What is EPSDT?

EPSDT stands for **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment**. It is a Medicaid benefit for members under 21. The goal is to help kids grow up healthy by preventing, finding and fixing problems early. It includes things like:

- **Checkups** – Regular visits to the doctor.
- **Tests** – To see if your child is healthy and to look for problems with hearing and vision.
- **Benefits** – Medicine, glasses, home health and therapy to make your child feel better.

What happens to EPSDT when a Medicaid member turns 21?

When kids reach age 21, they “age out” and can no longer get EPSDT healthcare services. They can get healthcare coverage through Louisiana Medicaid if they still have Medicaid as adults. Some services will be the same as when they were kids. Other healthcare services might not be covered, or extra steps may be needed to approve services. What could be different:

- **Dental Care** – They might not get as much dental care as they did as kids. They may need to see a different dentist to get this care.
- **Durable Medical Equipment and Vision Care** – Things like incontinence supplies and glasses may stop being covered when they turn 21. They may also need to turn in more paperwork from their doctor to keep getting these services.
- **Prior Authorization** – Some services might now require approval from the health plan before getting the care. That health plan approval is called prior authorization. The doctor will need to ask the health plan if the member is able to receive a benefit or service before it is delivered.

What services are covered for adults?

For most adults, Medicaid covers basic services like doctor visits, hospital stays, medicine, and mental health. What Medicaid covers can be different for each person. It depends on what kind of Medicaid they have. To learn about Medicaid services, go to <https://ldh.la.gov/page/medicaid-services>. There are two ways to look at Medicaid services on the website:

1. There is a list of Medicaid services on the web page. Click on something you need, like Durable Medical Equipment. This will open up a drop-down box that tells you details about the service.
2. There is a list of Medicaid services in a printable chart. Click on the “Medicaid Services Chart” under “Related Info” at the bottom of the web page.

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How to use the services lists:

- Services are listed in alphabetical order.
- Each listed service includes details like who can use the service (Eligibility) and what it covers (Covered Services).
- Services are also grouped by age and coverage.
 - Adult services are labeled “**Adult**” in the eligibility section.
 - Services for kids under 21 are called “**EPSDT**” (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment).
- To see if you qualify, check the “**Eligibility**” section of the chart.
- Lists are updated **twice a year**, so always check for the latest version.

Additional services for Medicaid members with a Healthy Louisiana health plan:

All health plans and dental plans offer the same basic benefits. Each plan offers different extra services based on age and need. For a list of these extra services by plan, go to <https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/en/compare-plans>. On this website, you can:

- Compare up to three health plans side by side.
- Compare the two dental plans side by side.
- View a PDF comparison chart that shows all the health plans or all the dental plans.

How to prepare for the change in Medicaid coverage:

- **Plan Early** – Begin planning 6–12 months before turning 21 to allow time for doctor’s visits, assessments, applications or changes to providers or plans.
- **Seek Medical Care** – Ensure you get any important medical care that might not be covered after turning 21. This includes:
 - Getting checkups for your eyes and teeth.
 - Get glasses, special medical equipment, and other supplies covered by EPSDT.
- **Contact Providers** – Check whether your current healthcare providers serve adults. You may need to find new providers before you turn 21.

Who to contact with questions or help finding new providers:

Who you contact depends on the type of care you currently get:

- Members with Support Coordinators – Reach out to your support coordinator with all questions or for assistance finding providers or scheduling appointments.
- Members with a Healthy Louisiana health plan – Contact your plan’s member services hotline. This phone number can be found on your health plan ID or at the plan comparison link in the “Resources” section below.
- Members with fee-for-service (legacy Medicaid) without a support coordinator can call **1-888-758-2220**.

Resources:

- Louisiana Medicaid Services – <https://ldh.la.gov/page/medicaid-services>
- List of health plan member services contacts and comparison chart for special services – <https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/en/compare-plans>