

For Your Information

Special Medicaid Benefits for Children and Youth

EPSDT means *Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment*. It is a Medicaid benefit for children and youth under age 21. The goal of EPSDT is to help kids stay healthy by preventing, finding and treating problems early.

If you are a Medicaid recipient under age 21, you may be eligible to receive the following services if you have a medical need for the service. Some services need approval from Medicaid before you can get them. This is called “prior authorization” or pre-approval.

Chisholm Class Members

Chisholm class members are Medicaid recipients ages 3-20 on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry. They can choose either regular Medicaid (Fee-For-Service) or a Healthy Louisiana health plan for most of their Medicaid services (not transportation or behavioral health).

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

ABA helps children learn new skills and improve behavior. It is often used with children who have autism, and some others.

To get ABA for your child, you need take 3 steps:

1. Have your child evaluated by a qualified health care professional.
2. Find an ABA center or therapist who will provide ABA services to your child.
3. Cooperate with the ABA center or therapist in their assessment process.

Sometimes there is a waiting list for both the evaluation and the ABA center or therapist so, start early. Must be prescribed by a qualified health care professional. Must be prior authorized by your Healthy Louisiana health plan.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Medical supplies or equipment needed to correct, improve, or assist in dealing with physical or mental conditions. Examples: wheelchairs, leg braces, communication devices, feeding supplies, etc. Diapers or pull-ups may be covered for ages 4-20 when medically necessary. Must be prescribed by a physician. Prior authorization is always required for Medicaid Fee-for-Service, and sometimes required for Healthy Louisiana health plans.

EPSDT Behavioral Health Services

Includes therapy, crisis support, rehab and substance use treatment. Some children may qualify for the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) program for extra help. Some behavioral health services require prior authorization from your Healthy Louisiana health plan.

EPSDT Dental Services

EPSDT dental covers dental check-ups, cleanings, fillings, extractions and emergencies. Kids should see the dentist every 6 months. Regular visits to the dentist can help prevent cavities if they are caught early. Call your dental plan at the number listed below to find a network provider or for questions about covered dental services.

DentaQuest	1-800-685-0143
MCNA Dental	1-855-702-6262

EPSDT Personal Care Services (PCS)

Personal Care Services (PCS) helps with daily needs like dressing, eating, bathing, and using the bathroom. PCS does not include medical tasks (like giving medicine). Must be prescribed by an attending practitioner. Must be prior authorized by Medicaid Fee-for-Service or your Healthy Louisiana health plan.

EPSDT Screening Services

EPSDT pays for regular check-ups, medical, mental health, vision, hearing, and dental screenings. These screenings are designed to identify health and developmental issues as early as possible. If problems are found, EPSDT also covers treatment. Whenever health treatment or additional services are needed, you may obtain an appointment for a screening visit by contacting your primary healthcare provider. Such screening visits can also be recommended by any health, developmental, or educational professional.

Home Health

Home health is home nursing care for people who need more skilled care than PCS. Home Health agencies also provide physical, occupational and speech therapy in the home if it's medically necessary. There is no fixed limit on how many nurse visits or how long the nurse can be in the home for people under age 21.

Extended Skilled Nursing Services: over 3 hours a day provided at home. Must be prescribed by an authorizing healthcare provider. Must be prior authorized by Medicaid Fee-for-Service or your Healthy Louisiana health plan.

Part-time Nursing Services: less than three hours per day. Must be prescribed by an authorizing healthcare provider.

Medical Transportation

Non-emergency rides to or from doctor's visits or other covered services. Call your Healthy Louisiana health plan at least 48 hours before the appointment (weekends don't count).

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana	1-877-917-4150
AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana	1-888-913-0364
Healthy Blue	1-866-430-1101
Humana Healthy Horizons	1-844-613-1638
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	1-855-369-3723

If you do not get your Medicaid services from a Healthy Louisiana health plan, call the fee-for-service transportation provider, Verida at 1-855-325-7626, at least 48 hours before the appointment (weekends don't count).

Children under 17 must have an attendant ride with them. All females, regardless of age, seeking prenatal and/or postpartum care are not required to have an attendant. If your child needs a car seat, bring it with you.

Pediatric Day Health Center (PDHC)

For medically fragile children under age 21 who need nursing care during the day. Can provide up to 12 hours per day. Must be prescribed by a physician. Must be prior authorized by Medicaid Fee-for-Service or your Healthy Louisiana health plan.

Support Coordination

A support coordinator (SC) helps you make a list of services your child needs and then helps you get them. This may include medical, school or community services. If you are a Medicaid recipient, under age 21 and on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (“registry”) or you are a Medicaid recipient ages 3-20 for whom support coordination is medically necessary, you may be eligible for EPSDT support coordination services immediately. To ask for support coordination, call Statistical Resources, Inc. at **1-800-364-7828**. If you need services for someone ages 0-2, please contact EarlySteps at 1-866-327-5978. To get on the registry or to learn more about “waiver services”, call your Local Governing Entity (LGE): <https://ldh.la.gov/page/134>.

Therapy Services

Physical, occupational, speech therapy, or hearing services. Can happen at school, at home, at a clinic, or in a combination of settings, depending on the child’s needs.

At School: For Medicaid to cover therapy at school (age 3-20), or through the early intervention program with EarlySteps (age 0-2), the services must be in a written plan of care such as the child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). For information on receiving these therapies, call your school or early intervention center.

EarlySteps contacts for each parish are listed on this web page: <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/earlysteps-spoe-referrals>.

At Home or a Clinic: Must be prescribed by an authorized healthcare provider. Prior authorization is always required for Medicaid Fee-for-Service, and sometimes required for Healthy Louisiana health plans.

Waiver Services

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has Medicaid waiver programs that give people extra help at home or in the community. To apply, contact your local governing entity (LGE) to go through the eligibility determination process. Once a person is eligible for OCDD services, they may ask to be added to the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR). OCDD provides waiver opportunities based on the individual’s prioritized need

for support, which is identified in their RFSR Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN). The tool known as the SUN was designed to identify any needs a person may have, review current supports a person has and uses now, and determine the urgency of any unmet needs that the person has. Having a current Statement of Approval is required to remain on the RFSR, receive a Waiver offer, or have a SUN completed. Individuals with emergent and urgent need for support will be linked to a waiver opportunity. OCDD has a tiered waiver system, meaning that we place individuals in the most appropriate waiver to meet that person's needs.

There are four OCDD Home and Community-Based Waivers:

Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: For ages birth – 20, helps kids live at home.

Supports Waiver (SW): For ages 18+, helps with work and daily activities.

Residential Options Waiver (ROW): For all ages, based on assessed needs.

New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): For ages 3+, supports individuals at home and in the community.

Other Services Not Listed

A full list of Medicaid services can be found at ldh.la.gov/Medicaid/Medicaid-Services. Even if a service is not on this list, Medicaid may still cover it. You can call the Specialty Care Resource Line at 1-888-758-2220 or your Healthy Louisiana health plan's Member Services line to ask. If you are under age 21 and a service is needed to help fix or improve a health or mental health problem, Medicaid must cover it. This includes some services not covered for adults. Some services may have limits because of federal rules.

Need Help?

- **If you have a Support Coordinator** - call your support coordinator first. (To ask for support coordination, call Statistical Resources, Inc. at 1-800-364-7828.)
- **If you have a Healthy Louisiana health plan** - call the member services number on the back of your card or at the number below.

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana	1-855-242-0802
AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana	1-888-756-0004
Healthy Blue	1-844-521-6941
Humana Healthy Horizons	1-800-448-3810
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	1-866-595-8133

- **If you have Medicaid Fee-for-Service and don't have a support coordinator** - call the Medicaid Specialty Care Help Desk at 1-888-758-2220.
- **If you don't know your coverage** - call Healthy Louisiana at 1-855-229-6848.