

TennCare Kids/EPSDT

General Information for the Health Care Provider

TennCare Kids is TennCare's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. TennCare Kids is a preventive health program that includes check-ups and health care services provided at no cost to TennCare members from birth through age 20.

These EPSDT visits support health promotion and disease prevention by including physical exams, age appropriate screenings and immunizations.

TennCare requires that for an EPSDT visit, you document complete information about each of the seven parts of an EPSDT screening:

1. Comprehensive health history
2. Complete unclothed/suitably draped physical examination
3. Vision and hearing screenings
4. Developmental and behavioral screenings
5. Immunizations
6. Health education and anticipatory guidance
7. Appropriate laboratory tests, according to age and health history

By including these seven components in every EPSDT visit, you're helping TennCare Kids members maintain their health. Screenings can help you identify and treat medical or behavioral health issues. Education about the member's current health and ongoing preventive care can help the member stay healthy.



Who should be screened?

All TennCare Kids members from birth through age 20 should be screened. These services give children early access to preventive and comprehensive health care to help prevent disease and/or detect disabilities in their early stages, when they are more effectively treated.

TennCare uses the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) periodicity schedule to determine age-appropriate screenings for TennCare Kids members. You can find the current schedule at brightfutures.aap.org > Bright Futures/AAP Periodicity Schedule.

When you're talking to a member, their parent or guardian, please talk to them about the importance of getting regular checkups. When a member comes in for a sick visit, if they haven't had their TennCare Kids check-up, an EPSDT screening can be performed during the same appointment. Claims can be filed for the same date of service.

Providing all seven of the components of the TennCare Kids visit, including vaccines, maximizes the member's presence in your office. When you deliver multiple services, you'll have an opportunity to be reimbursed for multiple services.



If a screening component couldn't be completed at the initial visit, the child should be scheduled for a follow-up for completion as soon as possible.



What's the reason for completing the seven required screening components at each EPSDT screening?

TennCare set the seven components of an EPSDT/TennCare Kids screening visit. Regular preventive health screenings in conjunction with completion of the required seven screening components are important in maintaining the health of the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan member.



How should I document the EPSDT visit?

Documenting each EPSDT visit in the member's medical record is important because:

- Documentation is required by TennCare.
- Recording a child's state of health and assessments, examination findings, plan of care and education/anticipatory guidance can help with ongoing evaluation, diagnosis and treatment.
- The member's medical records might be reviewed annually as part of a medical record review.

TennCare Kids/EPSTD

General Information for the Health Care Provider

We have age-specific forms to help you document all of the EPSTD elements required by TennCare Kids. Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP) forms are available on [UHCCommunityPlan.com](https://www.uhc.com/tenncare-kids) > For Health Care Professionals > Tennessee > Tools and Resources > [TNAAP Age Specific Forms for EPSTD exams](#).

For TennCare's reporting requirements, you also need to document when services are declined by a parent, guardian, or mature competent child by including:

- The particular service declined and the reason why
- Whether another appointment was offered to get the service

When you're documenting an EPSTD visit, please remember:

- Records should reflect all aspects of a patient's care.
- Records should be maintained or available at the site where TennCare services are rendered.
- If the member needs more than one visit to complete an EPSTD visit, please note that in the member's chart.
- If the EPSTD screening leads to a specialist referral, the primary care provider (PCP) will have to document in the member's medical record the reason for the referral as well as the outcome of the specialist's intervention.

Medical Record Review (MRR)

Annually, we review randomly selected primary care provider medical records in order to measure compliance to industry and the health plan standards. If a care provider doesn't meet these standards, we'll let them know where there are opportunities for improvement.

Scoring the Medical Record

All primary care providers will need 100 percent documentation of all aspects of each of the seven components of the EPSTD exam. For the annual medical record audit, a score above the current state EPSTD Medical Record Review (MRR) compliance rate will be considered compliant. Each component will be scored at the region and state level. Primary care providers will be considered non-compliant for a component that is below the current state EPSTD MRR compliance rate.



How can I coordinate medical and behavioral health services?

First, please try to get the member's consent to exchange treatment information with medical care professionals (i.e. primary physicians, medical specialists) and/or other behavioral health care clinicians (psychiatrists, therapists).

The coordination of care between behavioral health care clinicians and medical care professionals improves the quality of care in several ways:

- Coordination and good communication can confirm for a primary care physician that his or her patient followed through on a referral to a behavioral health professional.
- Coordination minimizes potential adverse medication interactions for member's prescribed psychotropic medication.
- Coordination allows for better management of treatment and follow up for members with coexisting behavioral and medical disorders.
- Continuity of care across all levels of care and between behavioral and medical treatment modalities is enhanced.
- For members with substance abuse disorders, coordination can reduce the risk of relapse.



More Information on TennCare Kids

[tn.gov/tenncare](https://www.tn.gov/tenncare) > TennCare Kids
[UHCCommunityPlan.com](https://www.uhc.com/tenncare-kids) > For Health Care Professionals > Tennessee

If you have questions, please contact us at **800-690-1606**. Thank you.