The Medicaid program benefit for children and adolescents is the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment services, or EPSDT.

- EPSDT provides prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services for infants, children, and teens under age 21.
- This is part of Section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act.
- The EPSDT is designed to assure that children receive early detection and care so that health problems are avoided or diagnosed and treated as early as possible.
- The goal of EPSDT is to make sure children get the health care they need when they need it – the right care to the right child at the right time in the right setting.

EPSDT Services

- **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early.
- **Periodic:** Checking children’s health at periodic, age-appropriate times.
- **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems.
- **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified.
- **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

Problem Analysis and Project Objectives

**Problem:**

- Resources for EPSDT services are available online, but can be difficult to find and interpret
- Accessibility of updated, reliable EPSDT resources in one location is needed

**Objectives:**

- Close this identified gap and create a centralized location to house reliable information regarding EPSDT
- This EPSDT Service Guide is intended to be a one-stop resource for families of children with Autism in NJ
- Description of services is beneficial to individuals in all states
- Educate families on language used to describe services and what each service provides to the child
- Provide contact information for further information to families who require additional guidance

What does the EPSDT Services Guide Include?

1. Background on EPSDT
2. Who is eligible and how to access EPSDT services
3. Detailed description of what is included within EPSDT services
4. Tips and tricks for families struggling through the EPSDT process

Main Resources Utilized


NJ Department of Children and Families. (2021). *EPSDT.*
https://www.state.nj.us/dcf/policy_manuals/CPP-V-A-3-800_issuance.shtml

https://www.NJFamilycare.org

*See website for additional sources