

Chapter 5-000 HEALTH CHECKS and Treatment Services for Conditions Disclosed During HEALTH CHECKS (EPSDT)

5-001 Introduction

5-001.01 Legal Basis: HEALTH CHECKS are covered under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program which was established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act was added by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-239).

5-001.02 Purpose and Scope: HEALTH CHECK, the Nebraska Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program is a service available to all individuals age 20 and younger eligible for medical assistance. The goal is to provide each eligible individual the opportunity for achieving and maintaining optimal health status. This can be facilitated by early detection of illness or defects through regular and periodic screening examinations, by providing follow-up care of the conditions detected during the screening, by providing continuity of care, and by promoting healthy lifestyles. It is intended to encourage and ensure that treatment is available and received by those eligible and in need of treatment by the application of medical knowledge and technology to cure, correct, or alleviate health problems. Preventive health care provides the following benefits:

1. Early detection and treatment of health problems to prevent serious impairment and to increase the chance of successful treatment;
2. Protection from certain preventable diseases by immunization for children at an early age;
3. Maintenance of good health and assurance of normal development through periodic check-ups and the establishment of a "medical home." In most cases, this will be a continuing relationship with a primary care physician; and
4. Savings of future medical costs.

The EPSDT program's objectives are ensuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources and helping Medicaid-eligible children and their parents or caretakers effectively use them. This may be accomplished through care coordination. For further information, see 468 NAC 5-000 ff.