

# TennCare Kids/EPSTD

## General Information for Health Care Providers



TennCare Kids is the name of TennCare's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSTD) program. TennCare Kids provides preventive health services at no cost to TennCare members from birth to age 20. These EPSTD visits include physical exams, age appropriate screenings and immunizations to promote good health, prevent disease and ensure that babies, children, teens and young adults receive the health care they need.

TennCare requires that you document complete information about all seven parts of an EPSTD screening for an EPSTD visit, including:

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 EPSTD 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 to age 20 should be screened.

TennCare uses the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) periodicity schedule to determine age-appropriate screenings for members. You can find the current schedule at [brightfutures.aap.org](http://brightfutures.aap.org) > Materials & Tools > [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. If a member comes in for a sick visit and they haven't had their TennCare Kids check-up, you can perform an EPSTD screening during the same appointment. Claims can be filed for the same date of service. If a screening component isn't completed at the initial visit, the child should be scheduled for a follow-up visit as soon as possible. Document the follow-up plan in the member's medical record.

Providing all seven components of the TennCare Kids visit give children early access to comprehensive health care to help prevent disease and detect disabilities early, when they are treated more effectively. When you deliver multiple services, you have an opportunity to be reimbursed for multiple services.

# TennCare Kids/EPSDT

## General Information for Health Care Providers



### Why are the seven screening components required at each EPSDT screening?

TennCare requires the seven components of an EPSDT/TennCare Kids screening visit because regular preventive health screenings in conjunction with the required seven screening components are important to helping maintain UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members' health.



### Should I document the EPSDT visit?

Yes! 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.

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

To meet TennCare's reporting requirements, you also need to document when services are declined by a parent, guardian or mature competent child. Reports should include information about:

- What service was declined and why
- Whether another appointment was offered for this service

When you're documenting an EPSDT visit, please remember the following:

- 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 EPSDT visit, please document that in the member's chart.
- If the EPSDT screening leads to a specialist referral, the primary care provider (PCP) will have to document the reason for the referral in the member's medical record, as well as the outcome of the specialist's intervention.

### Medical Record Review (MRR)

Annually, we review randomly selected PCP 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

PCPs need to reach an overall score of 85 percent to be compliant with EPSDT documentation requirements.

# TennCare Kids/EPSDT

## General Information for Health Care Providers



### How can I coordinate medical and behavioral health services?

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

Care coordination and good communication between behavioral health care clinicians and medical care professionals improves the quality of care and also:

- Enhances continuity of care across all levels and between behavioral and medical treatment modalities
- Confirms for care providers that patients follow through on referrals to behavioral health professionals
- Minimizes potential adverse medication interactions for member's prescribed psychotropic medication
- Allows for better treatment management and follow up for members with coexisting behavioral and medical disorders
- Reduces risk of relapse for members with substance abuse disorders



### More Information on TennCare Kids

Learn more about the TennCare Kids program and EPSDT services at [tn.gov/tenncare](https://tn.gov/tenncare) > [TennCare Kids](#) or at [UHCCommunityPlan.com](https://www.uhccommunityplan.com) > For Health Care Professionals > [Tennessee](#).

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