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## Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Services for ALL Medi-Cal Patients Under 21

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require all Medi-Cal patients under age 21 to receive EPSDT benefits, which includes comprehensive and preventive medical, dental, vision, hearing, mental health, developmental health, and specialty services. As a practitioner, we are sure you agree that this an important aspect of the care that you provide to your patients.

1. **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early
2. **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
3. **Screening:** Providing screening tests to detect potential problems
4. **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
5. **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems identified

**Autism Screening.** Your Medi-Cal patients under the age of 21 must receive screenings designed to identify health and developmental issues, as early as possible. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends screening for autism at 18 and 24 months.

**Blood Lead Screening.** Your Medi-Cal patients under the age of 21 must receive screenings for elevated blood lead levels (BLL) as part of required prevention services through the EPSDT Program. As a Community Health Group (CHG) primary care provider, you must:

1. At EACH periodic health assessment, provide oral or written guidance to the parent or guardian that includes information that children can be harmed by exposure to lead.
2. Periodic health assessments must be performed starting at 6 months of age and continuing until 72 months of age.
3. BLL testing should be done at 12 months and 24 months of age or when you are aware that a change in circumstances has placed the child at an increased risk of lead poisoning.

As a contracted CHG practitioner, we count on you to provide EPSDT services to your CHG patients. We also count on you to let us know when you provide EPSDT services by submitting encounters. A lack of EPSDT encounters is an issue and we all know that in healthcare, what is not documented is considered not done. Help us demonstrate that you provide quality care that meets nationally recognized standards! Please call Noreen Koizumi, Director of Corporate Quality at 619-498-6476 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.