

October 2017

Reimbursement for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

Healthy Blue allows reimbursement of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program services based on the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate. Same-day preventive and sick visits are also reimbursable by Healthy Blue as long as modifier 25 is billed with the appropriate evaluation and management (E/M) code.

What does this mean to me?

Sick visits can serve as an opportunity to obtain valuable health and development information and identify potential issues for your patients. Healthy Blue allows reimbursement for same-day preventive and sick visits with the use of modifier 25 and the applicable E/M code.

What is EPSDT?

The intent of the EPSDT program is to focus on early prevention and treatment. Requirements include periodic screening, vision, dental and hearing services. The EPSDT program is a Medicaid federally mandated comprehensive and preventive health program for patients under the age of 21. EPSDT was defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 and requires states to cover all services within the scope of the federal Medicaid program. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners and registered nurses may complete EPSDT screenings under the supervision of a physician.

The following EPSDT component services are included in the reimbursement of the preventive medicine E/M visit unless they are appended with modifier 25 to indicate a significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician on the same date of service:

- Comprehensive health history
- Comprehensive unclothed physical examination
- Health education
- Nutritional assessment
- Hearing screening with or without the use of an audiometer or other electronic device
- Dental screening
- Vision screening

Preventive medicine and sick visits on the same day

Our goal is to complete as much of the EPSDT as possible, even if the patient is in for a sick visit. In fact, Healthy Blue allows reimbursement for preventive medicine (that is, well child) and limited sick visits on the same day under the following conditions:

- Modifier 25 must be billed with the applicable E/M code for the allowed sick visit. If modifier 25 is not billed appropriately, the sick visit will be denied.
- Appropriate diagnosis codes must be billed for respective visits.

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at:

<https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BLAPEC-0571-17 October 2017

EPSDT assessments provide you with a baseline of data regarding the overall health of the patient. Please do your best to make the most of a child's visit, whether it is for sick or preventive services.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services toll free at **1-844-521-6942**.