

## **Purpose and Audience:**

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform our vendors and county partners who work with the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) for children/youth in foster care as well as our Medicaid members who have special or complex needs. This memo presents information and links / attachments for the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program and Creative Solutions process.

## **Why do the counties or our vendors need to know about EPSDT?**

EPSDT is a program under Federal statutes and regulations that state that children ages 20 and under who are enrolled in Medicaid are entitled to EPSDT benefits and that States must cover a broad array of preventive and treatment services. Unlike private insurance, EPSDT is designed to address problems early, ameliorate conditions, and intervene as early as possible. EPSDT does not 'care' about custody of the member. EPSDT, partnered with waiver services, might lower costs for the county department's Child Welfare case since they may not be needed with this benefit set. Core services dollars must not supplant or be spent on services or items that are covered under a waiver. EPSDT helps access funding for those services that are medically necessary but not covered under the RAE capitation.

EPSDT also requires case management services. By strengthening the linkages between primary health care providers and other child and family services, both case management and care coordination can better ensure that children receive needed services on a timely basis as outlined by the [AAP Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule](#). Without these supports, children and families are more likely to delay or not receive services to address risks and prevent conditions from worsening. This work often demands strengthening state interagency partnerships.<sup>1 2</sup>

## **What is the Creative Solutions process and how does it intersect with benefits?**

Creative Solutions, and the adult process of Complex Solutions, were developed by the Department to bring all funders and programs into a cohesive group to assist members and their families who may be in crisis.

In 2018, the Department began transitioning the Creative Solutions process to the RAEs to facilitate as these meetings are care coordination activities. It also assisted RAEs to develop stronger relationships with the community programs like Momentum, Child Welfare prevention dollars and county child welfare staff, who need to access these additional resources for the children and youth in their care.

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<sup>1</sup> Rosenbaum S, Johnson K, Jones E, Markus AR. Medicaid and Case Management to Promote Healthy Child Development. George Washington University, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson K, Rosenthal J. Improving Care Coordination, Case Management, and Linkages to Service for Young Children: Opportunities for States. The Commonwealth Fund and National Academy for State Health Policy. 2009

Many of these Creative Solutions meetings lead to the use of the Fee for Service benefits and the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services, often called wrap-around benefits. They also facilitate an understanding of when and how to access Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) and Children's Extensive Support (CES), which are two of four waivers available to children/youth offered in Colorado. Home and Community Based Services waivers which provide extra benefits to help children/youth remain at home and in the community. Each waiver program offers different benefits to specific populations that meet special eligibility criteria. In order to qualify for the waiver, the child/youth must meet waiver criteria and the appropriate level of care, as determined by the State prescribed assessment tools. Please see the [Children's HCBS Waiver Chart](#) on the [Long-Term Services and Supports Training](#) page for an explanation of all children/youth's waivers.

### **How do you access Creative Solutions?**

Creative Solutions can be requested by anyone - the family, provider, advocates or systems like child welfare agencies or the Community Centered Boards or Case Management agencies. A [form](#) found on the EPSDT page of the Department's website can start this process. If this form is received within the Department it is forwarded to the RAE via the RAE managers and their communication processes.

The Department, as well as the Department of Human Services, has assigned specific staff to assist the RAE in these meetings. That list may change over time and those changes will be communicated via the RAE communication process.

### **What are EPSDT benefits, and how do you access the EPSDT Exceptions that may be needed for these members and their families?**

Some common EPSDT treatment and intervention services beyond what is typically covered for adults include: hearing aids, orthodontia, wheelchairs and prosthetic devices, occupational and physical therapy, prescribed medical formula foods, assistive communication devices, personal care, therapeutic behavioral services, and substance abuse treatment. EPSDT also means that services will be covered for reasons of maintenance. Medicaid, as well as private insurers, will not pay for treatment for a covered individual unless they consider it to be medically necessary. In most private health plans, this means the service must be justified as reasonable, necessary, and/or appropriate, using evidence-based clinical standards of care. For children, federal Medicaid law requires coverage of "necessary health care, diagnostic services, treatment, and other measures . . . to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions."<sup>3</sup> Thus, the EPSDT medical necessity standard assures a level of coverage sufficient not only to treat an already-

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm)

existing illness or injury but also to prevent the development or worsening of conditions, illnesses, and disabilities.<sup>4</sup>

Many benefits and services needed for members ages 20 and under are state plan benefits. These benefits may or many not require a prior authorization request or PAR. For instance, most state plan mental health services, for those members carved out of the RAE capitation, are available without a PAR. In-state RCCF stays do not require a PAR for treatment services. Services such as Personal Care and Pediatric Behavioral Therapies, require a PAR. These benefits can be accessed through the [ColoradoPAR.com](http://ColoradoPAR.com) site.

Other services, such as out of state residential, or orphan drugs, require a request to the Department for approval. The [EPSDT Exception Form](#) will be completed by the accepting facility or requesting provider and submitted to the [EPSDT email box](#).

For those children and youth who are not able to access medically necessary services in state and are a part of the Creative Solutions process - the RAE will facilitate the gathering of and submitting the necessary documentation. Those required items include:

#### [EPSDT Request Form](#)

Basic care plan from requesting facility

Cost breakdown from requesting facility - less the educational costs of the stay

A recent list of all denials from appropriate in state providers - this will usually be a mix of group homes, foster homes and various treatment facilities

A referral for the services from a medical provider stating that the care is medically necessary  
RAE denial showing denial reason - usually this will be because the youth is in the custody of the county or that the main diagnosis is carved out of the RAE contract.

Current clinicals - also showing the need for the continued treatment

Payment options for costs not covered - education costs, additional 1:1 staff within the facility, etc.

ICAMA or ICPC request information from the county, if applicable

The RAE is also required to turn in their UM determination documents as to why they believe that the need for the treatment is carved out of their contracts and/or related to the uncovered diagnosis.

These documents will be forwarded to the [EPSDT email box](#) or to the current EPSDT Administrator directly.

#### **Resources and who to contact if you need something more:**

Resources:

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<sup>4</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Child Health Financing Model Contractual Language for Medical Necessity. Pediatrics. 2005b 116(1): 261-262

Contact info for CCB/CMA

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/community-centered-boards>

CHRP/CES comparison Chart: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CHRP-CES%20Comparison%20Chart%20for%20Case%20Management-September%202020.pdf>

CLLI waiver information:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/children-life-limiting-illness-waiver-clli#:~:text=The%20CLLI%20program%20provides%20Health,child%20is%20receiving%20palliative%20care.>

Children's Waivers chart:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CO%20HCBS%20Children%20Waiver%20Chart-September%202019.pdf>

Children's Waiver flow chart:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Choosing%20an%20HCBS%20Waiver%20Flowchart-Children-December%202019.pdf>

Adult Waiver Chart:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CO%20HCBS%20Adult%20Waiver%20Chart-August%202019.pdf>

Long-Term Services and Supports Program: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-programs>

EPSDT: A Guide For States

<https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/document/epsdt-guide-states-coverage-medicaid-benefit-children-and-adolescents#:~:text=and%20transmitted%20securely,-EPSDT%20%2D%20A%20Guide%20for%20States%3A%20Coverage%20in%20the%20Medicaid%20Benefit,a%20host%20of%20other%20topics.>

HCPF Contacts:

For questions related to CHRP, please email: [HCPF\\_CHRP@state.co.us](mailto:HCPF_CHRP@state.co.us)

For questions related to HCBS Waiver services, please email:

[hcpf\\_hcbs\\_questions@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf_hcbs_questions@state.co.us)

For questions related to Medicaid Benefits, please email: [HCPF\\_benefitsupport@state.co.us](mailto:HCPF_benefitsupport@state.co.us)

For additional information on the EPSDT program, visit: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment-epsdt>

For questions related to EPSDT, please email [HCPF\\_EPSDT@state.co.us](mailto:HCPF_EPSDT@state.co.us)

For access to the Creative Solutions Request form: Visit

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/EPSDT%20Screening%20Referral%20Form%20Sept%202019.pdf>