

# The Pediatric Medical Necessity Review and EPSDT

Medical necessity reviews on treatments, products or services requested or prescribed for all members ages 20 years of age and under are based on compliance with federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) criteria. Medical necessity is decided based on an individualized, child specific, clinical review of the requested treatment to ‘correct or ameliorate’ a diagnosed health condition in physical or mental illnesses and conditions. EPSDT includes both preventive and treatment components as well as those services which may not be covered for other members in the Colorado State Plan.

## *Federal EPSDT Criteria:*

**For coverage, the requested service must be:**

Found in Service Categories at §1905(a), Social Security Act AND BE:

1. Medical in Nature
2. Safe
3. Effective
4. Not Experimental
5. Not Investigational
6. Most Cost Effective of Equally Effective Treatments

In addition, the service provided must be not solely for the convenience of the caregiver or provider.

## *The following professional standards may apply:*

Patient-centered or scientific evidence for children with a hierarchy or algorithm of standards apply.

In the absence of availability of traditional evidence, current standards of care for children must be considered.

The American Association of Pediatrics, other pediatric medical specialty societies, and internal advisory committees may serve as references for defining essential pediatric care in the context of medically necessary services.

## *An appropriately licensed and credentialed professional or review panel must:*

Review the individual needs of the child as submitted in the request under each element of the EPSDT criteria as outlined in state and federal law, policy, and standards of best practice;

Research best practices, review peer-reviewed journals, and find support in data for effectiveness of requested service in the individual request as presented, allowing child and youth-based exceptions to review standards, guidelines, and policies as required by Colorado-specific EPSDT policy.

