

## EPSDT and Title V Collaboration to Improve Child Health

### States' Obligations to Assist Families

EPSDT is designed not only to finance health care for children but also to assure that children receive appropriate, quality services to improve their health. As described in federal program rules: "The EPSDT program consists of two, mutually supportive, operational components: (1) assuring the availability and accessibility of required health care resources; and (2) helping Medicaid recipients and their parents or guardians effectively use them." [View CMS Part V Rules](#)

Within broad federal guidelines, states have flexibility to design an EPSDT program that fits with their Medicaid, public health, and medical care systems. Informing and support services are specifically described in the federal EPSDT rules.

#### For **INFORMING**, states are required to:

- Inform all Medicaid eligible children under age 21 and their families about EPSDT on a timely basis (i.e., within 60 days of enrollment).
- Use effective methods of communication and clear, non-technical language in informing families – with a combination of face-to-face, oral, and written information recommended. Targeted information for at-risk groups also is recommended [Details here](#)
- Inform Medicaid eligible pregnant women about EPSDT, as well as adoptive and foster care parents of eligible children.

#### For **SUPPORT SERVICES**, states are required to:

- Offer and provide, if requested and necessary, assistance with transportation to medical care.
- Offer and provide, if requested and necessary, assistance with scheduling appointments for EPSDT care and services.
- Provide transportation and scheduling assistance for screening and diagnostic and treatment services.
- Specify in the state plan the state's responsibility for transportation assistance and describe the methods to use.
- Example of how Nevada uses its website to offer information to families. [Details here](#)