California Department of Health Services

Medi-Cal
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING
and
PEDIATRIC DAY HEALTH CARE Services

In-Home Operations
The Department of Health Services (DHS), Medi-Cal In-Home Operations (IHO) has received a request for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services for your child. Please read the enclosed information carefully. This booklet is designed to help you and your family plan for EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services.
EPSDT Services

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) is a Medi-Cal benefit for individuals under the age of 21 who have full scope Medi-Cal eligibility. This benefit allows for periodic screenings to determine health care needs. Based upon the health care needs, diagnostic and treatment services are provided.

Under the EPSDT benefit, a beneficiary may receive those medically necessary services allowable under the federal Medicaid program that correct or ameliorate a defect, physical and mental illness, or other condition discovered by the EPSDT screening services.

EPSDT services include Private Duty Nursing and Pediatric Day Health Care. In-Home Operations (IHO) is the Medi-Cal agency responsible for authorizing EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and Pediatric Day Health Care services.

Your child’s EPSDT care team consists of you, your family caregivers (as applicable), the doctor who orders the EPSDT services, your child’s health care service provider(s), and other agencies that authorize services for your child.

Your child’s EPSDT health care service provider may be a Registered Nurse (R.N.), a Licensed Vocational Nurse (L.V.N.), a Home Health agency and/or a Pediatric Day Health Care facility. All must be licensed by the State of California to provide your child’s health care services.

Use this page to write in the names and telephone number(s) of important members of your health care team:

Primary Doctor: ______________________

Other Specialists:

___________________________________

___________________________________

EPSDT Private Duty Nursing Services Provider(s):

___________________________________

___________________________________

EPSDT Pediatric Day Health Care Provider(s):

___________________________________

___________________________________

CCS Case Coordinator/Case Manager:

___________________________________

Regional Center Case Worker/Case Manager:

___________________________________

IHSS Case Worker:

___________________________________

Medi-Cal Eligibility Worker:

___________________________________

School Nurse: _______________________

Home Health Hotline: _______________
Personal Information:

Beneficiary Name: ____________________
Date of Birth: _______ / ______ /______
Social Security Number: ____ - ___- ____
Medi-Cal Number: ____________________
Medicare Number: ____________________
Other Health Insurance:
Name: ________________________________
Policy #: ______________________________
Primary Caregiver(s):
Name: ________________________________
   Relationship: _______________________  
   Home Phone: ________________________
   Work Phone: ________________________
Name: ________________________________
   Relationship: _______________________  
   Home Phone: ________________________
   Work Phone: ________________________
In an Emergency Call:
Name: ________________________________
   Relationship: _______________________  
   Home Phone: ________________________
   Work Phone: ________________________

Before DHS/IHO Can Approve a Request For Medi-Cal EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care Services:

- The beneficiary must have full-scope Medi-Cal and be under 21 years old.
- EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services must be medically necessary.
- EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services provided must cost the same as or less than the services would cost if Medi-Cal had to pay for them in a licensed health care facility.
- There must be a doctor’s order, called a Plan of Treatment or Plan of Care, with written instructions for your child’s EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services and treatments.
- Your choice of Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care service provider(s) must accept your request for care and be able to provide the medically necessary services ordered by your child’s doctor.
- Your choice of EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care service provider(s) must meet all applicable federal, state, and local standards.
Your Child’s Primary Doctor:

- Understands that you have chosen for your child to receive these Medi-Cal benefits in your child’s home or community-based setting.
- Provides the appropriate orders for an ongoing Plan of Treatment.
- Will make available complete and current information on your child’s care to the provider(s) of the EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services.
- Will authorize appropriate out-of-home activities in advance, with consideration to the EPSDT Private Duty Nursing service provider’s ability to provide nursing services away from the home.
- Is available to revise medical orders whenever there is a change in your child’s condition or needs.
- Is required by law to immediately report suspected abuse of children to the appropriate protective agencies and/or law enforcement.

If Your Child Receives Other Services:

- If your child receives In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and/or Regional Center (RC) services, it is very important that you tell your child’s IHSS and RC caseworkers about the request for Medi-Cal EPSDT services.
- Services provided under IHSS and RC may change when your child receives EPSDT services.
- If your child is a California Children’s Services (CCS) client, please remain in contact with the CCS case coordinator and continue to use CCS providers. CCS and IHO will work together to coordinate EPSDT services. CCS will continue to authorize some of your child’s services.

If you have any questions about the information in this booklet, please call IHO. Our staff will be happy to help you understand EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and Pediatric Day Health Care services benefits.

The IHO information lines are:

Sacramento Regional Office
(916) 552-9105

Los Angeles Regional Office
(213) 897-6774

IHO offices are open 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. The offices are closed weekends and holidays.
Important Reminders:

- EPSDT private duty nursing service providers provide ONLY SKILLED NURSING SERVICES – NOT HOUSEHOLD TASKS OR BABYSITTING. Your family is responsible for household tasks and the care of other children in the home. Medically necessary EPSDT private duty nursing services may be provided only to the person for whom DHS/IHO authorizes services.

- If your child’s doctor orders NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION, Medi-Cal requests that you arrange for it in advance through a Medi-Cal certified transportation provider. DHS/IHO does not authorize EPSDT Private Duty Nursing service providers to provide transportation services.

- You and your family are responsible for your child’s NON-MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION.

Your Child’s EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care Service Provider:

- Will assess your child’s care needs, i.e., nursing, personal care, pediatric day health care, etc. If the provider accepts your child’s care, the provider will send your EPSDT services request to DHS/IHO.

- Will develop and follow a Plan of Treatment signed by your child’s doctor. The Plan of Treatment will describe all medical and nursing care services to be provided. When there are changes to your child’s condition, you will be notified. Your child’s doctor will also be notified to make changes to the Plan of Treatment as needed.

- Will provide only those services authorized in advance by DHS/IHO.

- Is responsible for making sure all applicable federal, state and local requirements are met.

- Should give you and your child’s doctor who signs the Plan of Treatment advance notice of any plans to terminate their services.

- Is required by law to immediately report suspected abuse of children to the appropriate protective agencies and/or law enforcement.
DHS/IHO:

- Authorizes EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services if all Medi-Cal eligibility and medical necessity requirements are met.

- Coordinates with California Children’s Services (CCS) to authorize nursing services for CCS-eligible children.

- Is required by law to immediately report suspected abuse of children to the appropriate protective agencies and/or law enforcement.

Authorization of EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care Services Will Be Denied or Terminated by DHS/IHO When:

- Your child is no longer eligible for full scope Medi-Cal.

- Your child reaches age 21.

- Your child’s medical condition improves to the point that EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services are no longer medically necessary.

- You request in writing that services be terminated.

- Your child’s doctor discontinues orders for EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services.

- Your child’s current provider of EPSDT services does not meet the applicable standards for licensure and/or certification.

- It is determined that authorization of your child’s EPSDT services was made based on inaccurate or false information regarding your child’s need for these services.

In all cases, you have the right to request a state hearing to appeal (protest) the Medi-Cal program decision. If you need information on how to request a hearing, contact IHO.
After DHS/IHO Authorizes Your Child’s EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care Services, You Are Encouraged To:

- Maintain your child’s Medi-Cal eligibility to remain eligible for EPSDT services.
- Contact the county Medi-Cal eligibility worker if there are any changes to your family’s income or resources.
- Inform the EPSDT service provider immediately of any changes in your child’s medical condition or medications.
- Participate in your child’s home health care services. Caregiver training may be available. Discuss training needs with the EPSDT service provider.
- Work with the EPSDT private duty nursing service provider to be sure your child’s home is safe for medical care.
- Provide an easy entry and exit to your child’s home for the EPSDT Private Duty Nursing service providers.
- Treat all medical equipment and supplies with care and use them as prescribed by your child’s doctor. These items may only be used to meet the medical care needs of the child for whom they were ordered.

Authorization of EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care Services May Be Reduced By DHS/IHO When:

- Your child’s medical condition improves, but they still need skilled nursing care. DHS/IHO will reassess the medical necessity of your child’s skilled nursing care on a periodic basis.
Tips For A Successful
Home Care Program:

- Your child’s home environment must remain safe for all individuals who work in the home.

- There should be adequate room in your child’s home for necessary medical supplies and equipment.

- A working telephone must be available in the event of an emergency.

- In the event of a medical emergency, the EPSDT service provider will need to know how to contact your child’s parent, foster parent, guardian, conservator, or authorized representative who can authorize consent for emergency medical care.

- It is important to develop fire safety plans for your child’s home with written emergency evacuation procedures.

- In case of an emergency or a natural disaster it will be important to have back-up plans. Arrange for back-up caregivers and identify possible emergency transportation providers. For instance, if there is a flood in your area and EPSDT Private Duty Nursing service provider(s) cannot reach your child’s home, or you are unable to get to the Pediatric Day Health Care facility.

Tips – continued...

- Let your child’s EPSDT service provider know when your child is hospitalized, receive emergency room care, or is admitted to a medical care facility.

- Prevent problems by calling your child’s EPSDT service provider when you decide to change any of the following service providers:
  - Doctor
  - Home Health Services
  - Durable Medical Equipment
  - Other suppliers of health care services or goods.

- Discuss in-home or community-based care concerns with your child’s EPSDT service provider whenever possible. This informal conversation often solves the problem and helps to maintain open communication.

- If you cannot resolve a problem, talk with your child’s doctor.

- Let your child’s doctor know if you want to discontinue EPSDT Private Duty Nursing and/or Pediatric Day Health Care services.

Remember - you can choose a different Private Duty Nursing or Pediatric Day Health Care provider if you are not satisfied with the quality of the provider’s service(s); for example, if the EPSDT service provider fails to provide the services ordered by your child’s doctor.