

## Section 1 Introduction - Maryland Healthy Kids/ Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

### C. PROVIDER CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

In order to provide services to a Medicaid recipient, a provider must enroll with Maryland Medicaid and may contract with one or more of the MCOs. The Maryland Healthy Kids Program must certify all primary care providers who provide health care services to Medicaid/MCHP recipients under 21 years of age. The certification requirement applies to PCPs contracted with MCOs and PCPs providing care to recipients not enrolled with an MCO who have a red and white Medicaid card (commonly referred to as “fee-for-service MA”). Providers who need certification as primary care providers solo practices, group practices, and rendering providers within group practices who are:

- Board certified providers in pediatrics, family medicine, and internal medicine
- Licensed physicians and osteopaths, certified nurse practitioners, and physician assistants
- Health care providers such as federally qualified health centers, hospital outpatient department clinics, and school-based health centers

To participate in the Program, the provider must agree to adhere to the standards of preventive health care described in the Maryland Healthy Kids Program Manual. Providers are required to follow the [Maryland Healthy Kids Preventive Health Schedule](#) (Refer to Section 2). In addition, federal and state regulations stipulate that preventive care services are required for Medicaid enrolled recipients *under* 21 years of age. The [Provider Application for Certification and Participation](#) (Refer to Section 1, Addendum) outlines the conditions for participation. The Maryland Healthy Kids Program certification requires a face-to-face meeting with a Healthy Kids Program Nurse Consultant.

After the certification process is complete a [Provider Certification Letter](#) is sent to the PCP and MCO. The letter should be saved since it is required for MCO credentialing (Refer to Section 1, Addendum). The provider’s Maryland Medicaid number becomes the EPSDT Certification number. When a **new** provider joins the practice, the provider should complete the following steps:

1. **Complete the online application for a MA number on the Electronic Provider Revalidation and Enrollment Portal [ePREP Provider Portal](#).**
2. If the new provider already has an active MA number, the ePREP application process will serve to update the provider’s current practice address and link the provider to the group practice number.
3. **Once the application has been submitted through ePREP please check the website or call Provider Enrollment at 1-844-463-7768 for application status.**
4. Contact the Maryland Healthy Kids Program at 410-767-1836 to schedule a

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certification visit with the Program consultant for your area. \*This step should be completed once the provider has a Medicaid number or has started the application process in ePREP.

Once a provider is certified and he/she demonstrates compliance with the Healthy Kids Program, the certification stays with the provider **for 5 years** regardless of whether the provider changes practice sites or opens his or her own private practice . **Therefore, it is important to notify the [Healthy Kids Program Nurse Consultant](#) for your area of any changes to your practice** (Refer to Section 8). **MDH mails transmittals based on this information, so it is important to keep practice and provider information current.** *Providers who participate in the Healthy Kids Program receive specialized services offered by the state and local health departments.*

### **Healthy Kids Program Nurse Consultant Services**

- Certification of new providers (Pediatric, Family Practice, and Internal Medicine) entering group practices or establishing new solo practices
- Certification of new and established practices
- Notifying providers of updates and changes to the Program as applicable
- Maintenance of applicable clinical and Program manuals/materials online at: [Maryland Healthy Kids Program](#)
- Interpretation of Medicaid health policies and federal/state regulations
- Orientation and staff training in Program standards and procedures
- Monitoring of performance regarding Program implementation through medical record reviews
- Assistance with Medicaid billing and MCO encounter data reporting
- Education of providers about MCO and LHD referral process for outreach and health related services

### **Additional Services from MDH**

- Distribution of child health pamphlets and Program forms to aid Program implementation
- Availability of resources and referrals for community services from the Maryland Children's Health Program Information Line at **1-855-642-8572**
- Provision of free vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program
- Assistance in meeting the requirements of timely services to children with special needs