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MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
EPSDT Providers Transmittal No. 49
Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 206
March 25, 2024

TO: EPSDT Providers
 Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Sandra Kick, Director *Sandra E. Kick*
 Medical Benefits Management

RE: Clarification of Medicaid Coverage and Billing of the Initial Health Screening for Children Entering State-Supervised Care

NOTE: **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.**

This transmittal clarifies guidance provided in [EPSDT Transmittal No. 32 \(PT 08-11\)](#), issued on September 14, 2010, around the correct use of modifier 32 for billing of the initial health screening visit.

Per [COMAR 10.67.04.04](#), children entering State-supervised care are considered a special needs population. This population often has special health care needs and limited access to preventive and other health services. Managed Care Organizations (MCO) are required to provide high-quality, comprehensive, coordinated health care services that are continuous over time, compassionate, culturally competent, family-centered, and child-focused.

Upon entry into State-supervised care, children and youth are required to be seen by an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)-certified provider to receive an initial health screening. This screening should take place within 24 hours of the child's placement, but not to exceed a period of five days from the time of placement. The initial health screening documents the youth's current physical and behavioral/developmental health status, identifies any immediate medical or behavioral health needs, and provides documentation for the Local Department of Social Services or placement providers of any health conditions of which they should be aware.

Following the initial health screening visit, all children in State-supervised care should be scheduled with the child's EPSDT Primary Care Provider for a comprehensive evaluation within 60 days of placement.

Billing for Initial Health Screenings

Per [COMAR 10.67.04.13](#), initial health screenings for children entering State-supervised care are considered a self-referred service, meaning any EPSDT-certified provider enrolled in Maryland Medicaid can receive payment from the child's MCO for performing the visit. This initial health screening is also billable to Medicaid fee-for-service if the child is not enrolled in an MCO.

To receive payment, EPSDT providers **must** use **modifier 32** with the below codes for the initial health screening and any additional procedures performed during the initial health screening. Using modifier 32 will allow Maryland Medicaid to identify this service as an initial health screening so that providers can receive timely payment. The use of this modifier will also distinguish the initial health screening from a traditional comprehensive EPSDT visit and allow the below CPT codes to be billed more than once per calendar year for a child entering State-supervised care.

The modifier 32 should be used for the initial health screening only, and *not* be used for subsequent visits.

Comprehensive Preventive Medicine Codes Billable with Modifier 32 for Initial Health Screenings of Children in State-Supervised Care

CPT Codes Description - New Patients		CPT Codes Description - Established Patients	
99381	< than 1 year old, New Preventive	99391	< than 1 Established
99382	1-4 years, New Preventive	99392	1-4 years, Established
99383	5-11 years, New Preventive	99393	5-11 years, Established
99384	12-17 years, New Preventive	99394	12-17 years, Established
99385	18 years and older, New Preventive	99395	18 years and older, Established

Verifying Eligibility for Children and Youth in State-Supervised Care

Providers are responsible for using the Eligibility Verification System/Interactive Voice Response (EVS/IVR) to verify eligibility and MCO enrollment of all Medicaid patients, including children in State-supervised care. Providers can contact EVS/IVR by phone at 1-866-710-1447.

For providers enrolled in *eMedicaid*, *WebEVS* is available at <https://www.emdhealthchoice.org>.

For questions about this transmittal, please contact: mdh.healthchoiceprovider@maryland.gov.