



This section provides an overview of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program.

Program Overview

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program is administered by the Children's Medical Services Branch in the Primary Care and Family Health Division of the California Department of Health Services and is operated by local health departments. The program is designed to assure that eligible children and youth receive periodic health assessments and have access to ongoing health care from a medical home.

Every county health department in the State and the health departments in the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach and Pasadena operate a CHDP program.

The local programs are responsible for day-to-day operation of the program, including:

- Provider recruitment, review and approval
- Provider education and quality assurance
- Liaison with schools and various community agencies
- Education and outreach to eligible families
- Assistance to providers and families in obtaining services

Program Responsibilities

The CHDP program is responsible for the following:

- Educating the public and providers about the importance of, and how to obtain, periodic health and dental assessments of California's children and youth
- Assuring, in collaboration with the Department of Education, that children entering kindergarten or the first grade have access to certification that a health assessment has been provided or that a parental waiver has been signed
- Assisting providers, patients, and families in obtaining further diagnostic evaluation and necessary treatment services for conditions found during assessments
- Coordinating with Medi-Cal managed care plans and plan providers in their outreach to render services to Medi-Cal members
- Providing quality assurance activities for the delivery of CHDP services
- Reimbursing CHDP-enrolled providers for the following:
 - A complete health assessment
 - Immunizations and tuberculin tests
 - Laboratory tests, including testing for blood lead
 - Anticipatory guidance
 - Health education

Note: Refer to the *Health Assessments* section of this manual for additional information.

CHDP Gateway

Effective July 1, 2003, the CHDP program is a “Gateway” maximizing the enrollment of uninsured children and youth in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

Providers use the CHDP Gateway to pre-enroll CHDP-eligible children and youth in full-scope Medi-Cal at the time the patient visits a CHDP provider’s office. Eligible patients will be pre-enrolled for up to two months based on family size and income. During this pre-enrollment period, families are encouraged to complete and return a supplemental joint *Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Application* (MC 321) to ensure continued health care coverage for their child(ren). Refer to the *Gateway* section in this manual for more information.

CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines

The *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines* include policies and procedures for provision of CHDP services. The guidelines include a detailed explanation of what is expected of a CHDP provider. A copy of the guidelines is available from the local CHDP program.

Periodicity Schedule

Children and youth younger than 21 years of age who have full-scope Medi-Cal or are pre-enrolled in the CHDP Gateway may receive periodic preventive health services. Children and youth who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and receive medical care on a fee-for-service basis are eligible for one health assessment during each of the age periods according to the CHDP periodicity schedule. See the *Periodicity Schedule for Health Assessment Requirements by Age Groups* chart in the Appendix of this manual for the recommended periodicity schedule for health assessments, immunizations and laboratory tests.

Reimbursement

CHDP reimburses CHDP-enrolled providers for complete health assessments rendered to fee-for-service, non-capitated Medi-Cal and income-eligible children and youth for the purpose of the early detection and prevention of disease and disabilities. The CHDP program reimburses for outpatient preventive health services for eligible children and youth. In California, the CHDP program provides the early and periodic screening component of the federally mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit for Medi-Cal recipients.

Refer to the *Rates: Maximum Reimbursement for CHDP* section of this manual for maximum reimbursable rates.

Billing for CHDP Services

Refer to the *Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program: Billing and Reimbursement* section of this manual for instructions about billing CHDP services.

Diagnostic and Treatment Services

Diagnostic and treatment services are not benefits of the CHDP program.

Medi-Cal covered diagnostic and treatment services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries can be reimbursed through the Medi-Cal fee-for-service program.

- To be reimbursed for such services, the provider must be enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and bill the Medi-Cal program.
- As a reminder, children and youth pre-enrolled in Medi-Cal through the Gateway are eligible for Medi-Cal diagnostic and treatment services reimbursed by Medi-Cal.

**Head Start/
State Preschool**

Information about the Head Start/State Preschool component of the CHDP program is available from local CHDP programs.