

Provider Responsibilities: Health Assessments

This section includes information about the two categories of providers who may render Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) services, outlines the required tasks that CHDP health assessment providers are responsible to perform and lists necessary equipment and supplies.

Provider Responsibilities

All CHDP health assessment providers are required to maintain current CHDP enrollment in each county or local jurisdiction in which they render services. In addition, they must follow CHDP program laws, regulations, guidelines, policies and procedures, as outlined in their CHDP provider agreement.

All CHDP program health assessments must be performed by or under the supervision and responsibility of a physician or by an independent pediatric or family nurse practitioner licensed to practice in California.

Categories of Providers

There are two categories of CHDP health assessment providers:

- Comprehensive care providers
- Health assessment-only providers

Comprehensive Care

The comprehensive care provider agrees to provide all health assessment services as defined in the *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines* for the age and sex of the patient and any needed diagnostic and treatment services and must be available to the patient for all ongoing medical care. (See “Comprehensive Care Providers” in this section for detailed responsibilities.)

Health Assessment Only

The health assessment-only provider agrees to render all required health assessment services as defined in the *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines* for the age and sex of the patient and refers the patient to another provider for any needed diagnostic and treatment services. (See “Health Assessment-Only Providers” in this section for detailed responsibilities.)

Comprehensive Care Providers

Comprehensive care providers are responsible for:

- All preventive health assessment services, as defined in the *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines*
- Medical case management for a child initially evaluated through the CHDP program, including initiating diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for conditions discovered or suspected during a health assessment and referring patients to specialty care when appropriate
- Presenting families and/or patients with a written summary of findings (PM 160)
- Primary medical care and serving as the patient's medical resource on an ongoing basis
- Assuring the availability of medical services after usual and customary hours
- Maintaining records for each child receiving a CHDP health assessment
- Maintaining participation in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program
- Maintaining active status as a Medi-Cal provider

Health Assessment-Only Providers

Health assessment-only providers are responsible for:

- All preventive health assessment services, as defined in the *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines*
- Documenting in the child's record any referral that results from a health assessment and indicates the child has a condition, or a suspected condition, that requires definitive diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services
- Presenting families and/or patients with a written summary of findings (PM 160)
- Presenting referral and follow-up reports to families or patients. These reports document the child's condition, or suspected condition, for the provider to whom the child has been referred
- Maintaining records for each child receiving a CHDP health assessment
- Maintaining participation in the VFC program
- Maintaining active status as a Medi-Cal provider

Laboratory Providers

Clinical laboratory providers may refer to the *Laboratory* section in this manual for information about rendering CHDP laboratory services.

Non-Physician Medical Practitioners

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants employed by CHDP providers may perform CHDP services.

CHDP physician providers must be available to non-physician medical practitioners at all times while they are rendering services. The CHDP physician is responsible for all of the services the non-physician medical practitioner renders.

Provider Assistance

Local CHDP staff is available to help providers contact patients and schedule appointments with other providers.

Conditions of Participation

To perform a comprehensive health assessment according to the standards of the CHDP program, the CHDP health assessment provider must have the equipment, supplies and environment identified in the Facility Review Tool. (See the *Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program: Facility Review Tool Scoring Instructions* (DHS 4493) in the Appendix of this manual.)

Accessibility

CHDP providers must ensure that their programs and activities at each service site, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This does not mean that CHDP providers must make each of their existing facilities or every part of the facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities if other methods are effective in achieving compliance.

Appointment Scheduling

Patients are referred to providers from a variety of sources, including parents or caregivers, foster program parents, CHDP program staff, local health departments, schools and caseworkers.

Providers must offer appointments to referred patients on a timely basis.

At the time of a CHDP health assessment, and in accordance with the *CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines*, providers must:

- Schedule an appointment for the next periodic health assessment for children younger than 2 years of age
- Inform the family and/or patient in writing of the date when the next examination is due for children 2 years of age and older

Determining Eligibility

Providers are responsible for determining eligibility for CHDP program services for existing and newly referred low-income patients. This includes:

- Verification of Medi-Cal eligibility through the use of the Point of Service (POS) network, which includes the POS device, Automated Voice Eligibility System (AEVS), the Medi-Cal Web site at www.medi-cal.ca.gov and state-approved vendor software, to assure that the patient is eligible on the date of service and is not a member of a Medi-Cal managed care or Healthy Families plan.
- Screening for eligibility for CHDP Gateway, as defined in the *Gateway* section of this manual.

Informing Patients

Providers are responsible for informing patients about CHDP medical services that are available and assisting recipients, in coordination with the local CHDP program, to obtain services for which they are eligible.

Obtaining Consent

Providers must obtain voluntary written consent prior to examination and treatment, with appropriate regard to the patient's age and following State and Federal laws. Consent also must be obtained prior to release of patient information.

Services to Minors

Minors (patients younger than 18 years of age) may provide their own legal consent for CHDP health assessment services, if:

- The minor is emancipated, as determined by the court.
- The minor is, or has been, married.
- Parental consent for the service is not necessary under State or Federal law.

Dental Referrals

It is recommended that providers refer all recipients receiving CHDP health assessments for a dental examination on an annual basis beginning at 1 year of age. Providers must refer all recipients receiving CHDP health assessments for a dental examination on an annual basis beginning at 3 years of age.

If a dental problem is found during a CHDP health assessment, providers must refer any child for dental care, regardless of age.