



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

December 14, 2023

EPSDT (Well Child) visits can include:

- Comprehensive health history & physical exam
- Growth and Developmental screening
- Nutritional assessments
- Behavioral health assessments
- All medically necessary immunizations
- Vision, hearing & speech screening
- Eyeglasses, hearing aides
- Oral health screening and care
- Blood & urine tests
- Health education, counseling and chronic disease self-management
- Other screening tests as necessary
- Follow-up and referral of any medically-necessary healthcare services

If you have any questions regarding physical health assessments, call Mercy Care DCS CHP Member Services at 602.212.4983 or 1.833.771.0776.

Provide the Mercy Care DCS CHP contact information to health care providers, out-of-home caregivers and parents.

Did you know?

- A child's immunization history may be obtained by contacting DCS CHP or through their school district.
- Mercy Care DCS CHP can assist the caregivers with locating a doctor and a dentist for the child.

Physical Health Assessments

Together, the DCS Specialist, parents, and out-of-home caregivers address the child's physical health while the child is in out-of-home care.

- Children who enter out-of-home care often do so with medical and oral health concerns and treatment needs.
- Gather as much physical health information as possible.
 - ▶ Ask parents about the child's medical and dental history, including the names of their doctors and dentists, in order for any new providers to request records. For example, ask about current medical conditions, medications, allergies to foods or medications, immunizations and any adverse reactions, and past hospitalizations. If an allergy has been identified, ask the parent about the symptoms and whether they have any needed medication.
 - ▶ Also request the date, location and provider name for any future appointments that may already be scheduled or needed.
 - ▶ If the child has braces, obtain information on the orthodontist office and any prepaid services. Often braces and subsequent visits have been prepaid.
 - ▶ Begin collecting health information when the child is removed from the home and continue to gather health information while the child is in care.
 - ▶ Collect any medications for the child with the original prescription labels, if possible. Request information for the pharmacy where medications are usually filled.
- Upon initial placement of a child in out-of-home care, inform the out-of-home caregiver that these assessments are required within 30 days after initial placement:
 - ▶ A comprehensive medical assessment, also known as a well child visit. This visit is required to assess any of the child's unmet medical needs. It is vital to provide out-of-home caregivers with child health information collected during the Family Functioning Assessment, so that it can be provided to the medical professional completing the medical assessment.
 - ▶ A preventative dental assessment for all children, by one year of age and older. Children may suffer oral neglect or abuse and this evaluation can identify any treatment needed and prevent pain for the child. Coordinate with the out-of-home caregiver to ensure the child receives a dental examination semi-annually (every 6 months) thereafter.
- Inform the out-of-home caregiver of any follow up visits that are already scheduled or need to be scheduled, including the details of the visits (i.e. provider name and phone number).
- Be sure to follow up and inquire about the date these assessments were completed. Assist with obtaining needed assessments for the child.

For more information on overseeing the child's physical health needs, see the DCS policy manual, Chapter 3: Section 7.1

The Mercy Care DCS CHP Member Handbook provides information on the child's physical health benefits and other useful tools and resources for parents and caregivers. You can access the member handbook at <https://www.mercycareaz.org/members/chp-members/handbook>

The CHP nurse may also be contacted by emailing CHPNurse@azdcs.gov if there are difficulties getting questions answered by member services.

Involve the child's parent(s) every step of the way.

Encourage parents to attend their child's health appointments when safe and appropriate.

Encourage out-of-home caregivers to include parents in health appointments. Encourage them to share their concerns and talk about how they can be addressed.

Inform parents of the date, time, and location of appointments.

To encourage success, talk with the parent about what they might say, ask, observe, or do during the appointment.

Discuss any barriers the parent may be concerned about, such as transportation to the appointments.

If a parent has been charged with a crime to a child victim, or a parent's parental rights have been terminated, review court orders for child contact restrictions.

Keeping parents involved in physical health appointments allows reunification readiness assessment and supports the transition home.

- Parents have a right to know about their child's physical health needs.
- Consult with the child's parents when making health care decisions for a child in out-of-home care.
- Inform parents about scheduled appointments so that they may attend. Attending appointments allows the parent to maintain their parental role and supports the parent to make and keep track of appointments, ask questions about the child's needs and services, and follow-up.
- By attending appointments, the parent becomes familiar with the child's health care providers, which can support continuity of care when a child returns home.
- The DCS Specialist can use these contacts to observe and assess the parent's ability to address the child's health care needs when preparing for reunification.

Obtain and share medical history with health care providers, out-of-home caregivers, and others to facilitate continuity of health care.

Provide new caregivers with all current information on the health status of the child. Inform health care providers when the child has a new caregiver or has returned home.

Provide the new caregiver or parent with the following:

- The most current health summary, including the names of all medical and dental providers.
- The child's medical conditions, medications (in original containers), and any special instructions.
- If the Primary Care Physician (PCP) or primary dental provider must change when a child changes caregiver, make sure new providers are established and receive physical health information.
- Consider if the child has any special needs that may need coordination with other services; such as an after school program or extracurricular activities.

Continuously assessing child functioning for the Family Functioning Assessment includes monitoring the child's physical health.

Being knowledgeable of the child's needs is crucial to assessing the out-of-home caregiver's ability to meet the child's physical health needs. Obtain names and contact information for each of the child's physical healthcare providers. If there are any concerns with the caregiver's ability to meet the child's needs, discuss them with the Program Supervisor.

Consider the following:

- Since your last contact, has the child had any appointments? Were any appointments missed or rescheduled? Are there pending appointments?
- Have there been any referrals to physical health specialists?
- Does the child have any nutritional needs due to medical concerns (e.g. diabetes, allergies)?
- Are health care recommendations or instructions being followed?
- Is the child, if applicable, an active participant in their own care?
- Is there any health information that needs to be shared (allergies, epi pen, inhaler, etc.) with school staff or other adults overseeing the child's extracurricular/enrichment activities (i.e. sports, camp)?
- Has the child been hospitalized? Are there discharge instructions or an aftercare plan? Are instructions/plans understood and being followed? Was the follow up visit scheduled and kept? (This visit is typically within 5 days of discharge).

In addition to documenting information regarding a child's physical health in the Family Functioning Assessment and case notes, the DCS Specialist must document this information within the Health tab in Guardian. This includes provider contacts, medications, health exams, allergies, etc. This information must be available to provide to the child's out-of-home caregiver and parent(s). It is also important to keep the information current in Guardian in the event a case is reassigned.

- Obtain and review any new medical records at each visit. Discuss any questions or concerns with the caregiver, parent, and/or child. If you can attend medical appointments, discuss your questions or concerns with the health care provider.
- Is the child prescribed any medications (including over-the-counter)?
 - ▶ What are they? When and how are they administered?
 - ▶ Where are the medication prescriptions being filled? Are there any problems filling the prescriptions?
 - ▶ Who is the prescribing dentist or doctor and what is their contact information?
 - ▶ Do the medications require routine follow up appointments with the doctor or blood level monitoring?
 - ▶ Have there been any changes to the child's health or behavior since starting the medication? If the child or out-of-home caregiver has any concerns about the medication, ensure a follow up appointment with the doctor occurs.