

CHILD HEALTH CHECK-UP

Your child should get a health check-up **as soon as they are born** and then at the following times:

- 2-4 days, if your newborn left the hospital less than 48 hours after delivery
- by 1 month
- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 9 months
- 1 year
- 15 months
- 18 months
- Once every year for ages 2 - 20

You may also request a Child Health Check-Up at other times if you think your child needs it.



Schools require a complete physical for some students before they can attend classes, and appointments are sometimes hard to get. Don't wait until the last minute to get your child a health check-up!

A Child Health Check-Up includes:

- Health and developmental history
- Complete physical exam
- Immunizations
- Lab tests, including testing for lead poisoning at 1 and 2 years of age and between 3 years and 6 years, if never tested
- A check of your child's vision and hearing
- A check of your child's eating habits and development
- A referral for a dental check-up beginning at age 3
- Health education to tell you how to prevent accidents and diseases and to answer your questions about your child's growth and development
- Diagnosis and treatment, if necessary

For more information on Child Health Check-Ups, call your MediPass provider, HMO provider, or local Area Medicaid Office.

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Child Health
Primer

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations (also called vaccinations) are shots given to children and adults to protect them from certain diseases. These diseases can be serious and, at times, can even cause disability and death. For this reason, it is important that people be immunized.

Florida requires certain immunizations for children entering or attending child care, family day care, pre-school and school.

Children need various shots over a period of years. For full effect some immunizations are repeated 3 or 4 times.

Medicaid reimburses for immunizations for beneficiaries from birth through 20 years of age. If you have questions about immunizations, or other health care concerns, contact your doctor or health care clinic. You can ask your doctor for an immunization card, so you can keep a record of the shots that are given to your child.

EYE EXAMS AND EYEGLASSES

The Child Health Check-Up includes a visual screening. Your doctor may recommend that your child have a visual examination. Medicaid reimburses for medically necessary visual exams. Optometrists or ophthalmologists can provide the exam.

When eyeglasses are required, the provider who completes the exam must ensure that glasses are dispensed and properly fitted. Opticians can also provide glasses. They will assist in selecting the frame style, color and size. They will order and fit the glasses.

Please remember that Medicaid pays for frames from Central Optical or the provider's store brand of comparable quality. Designer or name brand frames are not usually covered. However, you may choose any frame and pay the entire cost.

DENTAL SERVICES

When you're getting your child ready for school, it is also a good time for a visit with the dentist.

Medicaid reimburses for preventive services for beneficiaries under the age of 21. The services include:

- Oral prophylaxis (cleaning)
- Topical fluoride application
- Oral hygiene instruction
- Sealants

Most preventive services are limited to Medicaid reimbursement only once in a six-month period. Sealants are limited to once per three years and only for certain permanent 1st and 2nd molars.

The Area Medicaid office can give you the names of children's dentists in your area that will accept Medicaid payment.

HEARING SERVICES

All newborns should be screened for hearing impairments to reduce the adverse effects of hearing loss on speech and language development, school performance and mental development. Medicaid pays for the screening. Medicaid also pays for other hearing services when medically necessary. The hearing services include:

- Diagnostic testing
- Hearing aid evaluations
- Hearing aids
- Hearing aid fitting and dispensing
- Hearing aid repairs
- Cochlear implants

There are some limitations. Evaluations are reimbursed one time every three years. Hearing aids are limited to one hearing aid per beneficiary. Hearing aids may be replaced when the current aid cannot be repaired or the beneficiary's hearing loss requires a different device for maximum benefit. Aids are limited

to one every three years. The hearing provider will teach you about the aid's operation and care.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Lead Poisoning can cause brain damage that can cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and at very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death.

Ask your doctor to test your child's blood for lead. Learn how to protect yourself and your child from lead exposure from your housing, employment and hobbies.

Call the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD** and your local County Health Department for more information.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

For further information on immunizations of children, adults and pregnant women, international travel and educational resources contact the **National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**, www.cdc.gov/nip, **800-232-2522** (English) and **800-232-0233** (Spanish).

For a listing of local County Health Departments in Florida (where immunizations are available) contact the **Florida Department of Health**, www.doh.state.fl.us/chdsitelist.htm, **850-245-4342**.

For information on medical services for low-income individuals and families contact **Florida Medicaid, Agency for Health Care Administration**, <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/index.shtml>, **888-419-3456**.

To apply for Florida Medicaid for low-income individuals and families contact the **Florida Department of Children and Families**, www.state.fl.us/cf_web. Check phone book for local listing.

For information on the Florida KidCare program, a free or low cost government funded program for uninsured Florida children from birth through age 18 contact **Florida KidCare**, www.floridakidcare.org, **888-540-5437**.

