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**CHAPTER 47: EPSDT HEALTH AND IDEA, Part C – EarlySteps**

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**SECTION 47.0: OVERVIEW****PAGE(S) 2**

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## **OVERVIEW**

### **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)**

EPSDT is the component of the Louisiana Medicaid Program that provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT services are designed to provide a framework for routine health, mental health, and developmental screening of children from birth through age 20, plus evaluation and treatment for illnesses, conditions, or disabilities.

### **IDEA**

The coordination of Medicaid with state special education programs and EarlySteps, Louisiana's early intervention system, dates from the enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Public Law 101-476. This legislation was originally passed in 1975 as Public Law 94-142, the Education of the Handicapped Act.

### **IDEA Part C**

IDEA, Part C, is administered by the Louisiana Department of Health, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD). The program in Louisiana is called EarlySteps, and meets the Part C requirements for the State's early intervention system.

EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth through two years who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays. Children with delays in cognitive, motor, vision, hearing, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive development may be eligible for services. EarlySteps services are designed to improve the family's capacity to enhance their child's development. These services are provided in the child's natural environment, such as the child's home, child care, or any other community setting typical for children aged birth through two years. Eligibility for EarlySteps and a child's and family's needs to support the child's development are identified on and provided through an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP).

### **OBRA '89**

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) changes in Sections 1902 and 1905 of the Medicaid statute greatly expanded EPSDT's role as a financing mechanism of health services for Medicaid eligible children. OBRA '89 added a new required EPSDT services component of "other necessary health, diagnostic, treatment, and other measures needed to ameliorate defects, physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the screening services, whether or not such services are covered under the state Medicaid plan." These EPSDT changes mean that health related services identified in an IFSP may be reimbursable for a Medicaid enrolled child.

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**SECTION 47.0: OVERVIEW****PAGE(S) 2**

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The screening component of EPSDT that provides for medical, vision, hearing, and screening services are provided through Healthy Louisiana, the new health care delivery model in Louisiana. For children exempt from enrollment in Healthy Louisiana, these services shall be provided by their primary care physician.

**Coordinated System of Care – Behavior Health Services**

Effective March 1, 2012, Louisiana implemented a comprehensive and Coordinated System of Care for behavioral health services. School-based behavioral health services were included in the State Plan Amendment and provide a much wider range of services than previously allowed. These services are administered under the authority of the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health in collaboration with Magellan Health Services to ensure adequate service coordination and delivery. For more information on school-based behavioral health services, Local Education Authorities should contact Magellan Health Services at [www.magellanoflouisiana.com](http://www.magellanoflouisiana.com).