
CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1.5: BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH **PAGE(S) 7**

**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH
WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**TO REQUEST THEM - CALL THE OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
(OCDD)/DISTRICT/AUTHORITY IN YOUR AREA
(See listing of numbers on attachment)**

Per Chisholm v Department of Health and Hospitals, it is required that the following language concerning services to persons under 21 and children with disabilities be published in this manual.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICES

The following services are available to children and youth with developmental disabilities. To apply for services, contact your local governing entity (LGE). Phone numbers are listed on the attachment or on the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) [website](#).

For those with developmental disabilities, who are able to live at home and not in an institution, waiver programs are available. To sign up for waiver programs that offer Medicaid and additional services to eligible persons, including individuals whose income may be too high for traditional Medicaid, you can request a screening to be added to the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (DDRFSR).

To sign up for waiver programs that offer Medicaid and additional services to eligible persons (including those whose income may be too high for other Medicaid programs), ask to be added to the DDRFSR. The **New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)** and the **Children's Choice (CC) Waiver** both provide services in the home, instead of in an institution, to persons who have intellectual disabilities and/or other developmental disabilities. Both waivers cover family support, center-based respite, environmental accessibility modifications, and specialized medical equipment and supplies. In addition, **NOW** covers services to help individuals live alone in the community or to assist with employment, and professional and nursing services beyond those that Medicaid usually covers. Expanded dental benefits are available for adult NOW beneficiaries. The NOW is only available to individuals who cannot be supported in another Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) waiver (CC, Supports Waiver, or Residential Options Waiver (ROW)).

The **CC Waiver** also includes family training. Children remain eligible for the CC Waiver until their twenty-first birthday, at which time they are moved to an age-appropriate waiver for people with developmental disabilities.

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The **Supports Waiver** provides specific, activity focused services rather than continuous custodial care. This waiver offers supported employment, day habilitation, pre-vocational services, respite, habilitation, permanent supportive housing stabilization, permanent supportive housing stabilization transition, personal emergency response systems, and expanded dental services for individuals age 18 and older.

The **ROW** is appropriate for those individuals of all ages whose health and welfare can be assured by the support plan with a cost limit based on their level of support need. This waiver offers community living supports, companion care, host home, shared living, one-time transitional services, environmental modifications, assistive technology/specialized medical equipment, personal emergency response systems, center-based respite, nursing, dental, professional (dietary, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, psychology), transportation-community access, supported employment, pre-vocational services, day habilitation, housing stabilization, housing stabilization transition services, monitored in home caregiving, and adult day health care (ADHC). Expanded dental benefits are available for adult ROW beneficiaries.

Although not a waiver, services are also available for children ages birth to 3 years.

EarlySteps contacts for each parish are listed on this web page:

<https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/609>

SUPPORT COORDINATION

A support coordinator works with you to develop a full list of all the services you need and then helps you get them. This can include things like medical care, therapies, personal care services, equipment, social services and educational services. If you are a Medicaid beneficiary under the age of 21 and if support coordination is medically necessary, you may be eligible to receive support coordination services immediately. Contact Statistical Resources, Inc. (SRI) at 1-800-364-7828. Support coordination is also provided through EarlySteps for eligible children.

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**THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEDICAID ELIGIBLE
CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDER THE
AGE OF 21 WHO HAVE A MEDICAL NEED**

Transportation

Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to and from medical appointments is covered under the Medicaid Managed Care program. Medicaid eligible children are enrolled in the Medicaid Managed Care program for their Medicaid transportation services even if they have Legacy Medicaid for their physical health services.

Arrangements for transportation should always be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling the numbers shown below.

Aetna Better Health	1-877-917-4150
AmeriHealth Caritas	1-888-913-0364
Healthy Blue	1-866-430-1101
Humana Healthy Horizons	1-844-613-1638
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	1-855-369-3723
UnitedHealthcare Community	1-866-726-1472

If you are not sure who your managed care organization (MCO) is, you can contact the Medicaid Managed Care Program Line at 1-855-229-6848 to find out under which MCO you are covered.

Applied Behavioral Analysis- Based Therapy Services (ABA)

ABA therapy is the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental modification using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including the direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. ABA-based therapies teach skills through the use of behavioral observation and reinforcement or prompting to teach each step of targeted behavior. ABA-based therapies are based on reliable evidence of their success in alleviating autism and are not experimental. This service is available through Medicaid for persons 0 to 21 years of age. For Medicaid to cover ABA services through a licensed provider they must be ordered by a physician and be prior authorized by Medicaid.

ABA is accessed through your MCO. All Medicaid eligible children are enrolled in the Medicaid Managed Care program for their specialized behavioral health services, even if they may have Legacy Medicaid for their physical health services.

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Aetna Better Health	1-855-242-0802
AmeriHealth Caritas	1-888-756-0004
Healthy Blue	1-844-406-2389
Humana Healthy Horizons	1-800-448-3810
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	1-866-595-8133
UnitedHealthcare Community	1-866-658-5499

If you are not sure who your MCO is, you can contact the Medicaid Managed Care Program Line at 1-855-229-6848 to find out under which MCO you are covered.

Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Children and youth may receive mental health and substance use services if it is medically necessary. These services include necessary assessments and evaluations; individual, group and/or family therapy; medication management; crisis services; community psychiatric support and treatment; psychosocial rehabilitation; multi-systemic therapy; functional family therapy; homebuilders; assertive community treatment for youth ages 18-20; therapeutic group home; psychiatric residential treatment facility; inpatient psychiatric treatment; and substance use disorder treatment services. In addition, eligible at-risk children and youth may access specialized services, including peer support, short-term respite, and independent living skills building, through the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) program.

How to Access Mental Health and Substance Use Care

How a person gets these services depends on the type of coverage they have.

If the member is enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care program, they can access services toll free by calling their plan using the numbers listed below. All Medicaid eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care program for their specialized behavioral health services even if they may have Legacy Medicaid for their physical health services.

Aetna Better Health	1-855-242-0802
AmeriHealth Caritas	1-888-756-0004
Healthy Blue	1-844-521-6941
Humana Healthy Horizons	1-800-448-3810
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	1-866-595-8133
UnitedHealthcare Community	1-866-658-5499

If you are not sure who your MCO is you can contact the Medicaid Managed Care Program Line at 1-855-229-6848 to find out under which MCO you are covered.

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If a member is part of the CSoC that helps at-risk children and youth who have serious behavioral health challenges, they can access services by contacting Magellan at 1-800-424-4489/TTY 1-800-424-4416. CSoC offers services and supports that help children and youth return remain at home. Services include youth support and training; parent support and training; independent living skill building services; and short-term respite, as well as all other Medicaid State Plan behavioral health services. Parents and guardians will be assisted in selecting a provider in their area to best meet the needs of the child or youth and the family. Members may apply for CSoC by contacting their MCO and requesting referral to CSoC. The MCO will transfer the caller to Magellan for a brief Child and Adolescent Needs Assessment (CANS) screening. If the youth screens positive on the brief CANS assessment, Magellan will connect you to the regional wraparound agency for further assessment.

The rest of your medical services will either be accessed through Legacy Medicaid if you have Legacy Medicaid for your physical health services or through your MCO if you chose to “opt in” to the Medicaid Managed Care program for your physical health services.

Chisholm Class members (Medicaid eligible children who are on the DDRFSR are allowed to participate in the Medicaid Managed Care program if they “opt in.” For more information about these options, contact the Medicaid Managed Care program hotline toll free at 1-855-229-6848.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Exams and Checkups

Medicaid beneficiaries under the age of 21 are eligible for checkups ("EPSDT preventive screening"). These screenings include a health history; physical exam; immunizations; laboratory tests, including lead blood level assessment; vision and hearing checks; developmental screening; autism screenings; perinatal depression screening; and dental screenings. They are available both on a regular basis and whenever additional health treatment or services are needed.

EPSDT preventive screening may help to find problems which need other health treatment or additional services. Beneficiaries under 21 years of age are entitled to receive all medically necessary health care, screening, diagnostic services, treatment, and other measures covered under federal Medicaid statutes and regulations to correct or improve physical or mental conditions. Services may include those not otherwise covered by Louisiana Medicaid for beneficiaries age 21 and older, unless prohibited or excluded.

Personal Care Services

Personal care services (PCS) are provided by direct service workers (DSWs) and defined as tasks that are medically necessary when physical or cognitive limitations due to illness or injury necessitate assistance with eating, toileting, bathing, bed mobility, transferring, dressing,

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locomotion, personal hygiene, and bladder or bowel requirements. PCS does not include medical tasks such as medication administration, tracheostomy care, or feeding tube or catheter management. The Medicaid Home Health program or Extended Home Health program provides those medical services. PCS must be ordered by a practitioner (physician, advance practice nurse, or physician assistant). The PCS provider must request approval for the service from Medicaid or the MCO.

Extended Skilled Nursing Services

Children and youth may be eligible to receive skilled nursing (over three hours per day) in the home. These services are provided by a home health agency. A physician must order this service. Once ordered by a physician, the home health agency must request approval for the service from Medicaid or the MCO.

Intermittent Nursing Services

Nursing visits to EPSDT individuals that do not exceed three hours per day may be provided without a prior authorization request unless more than one nursing visit a day is needed. These services must still be ordered by a physician and provided by a home health agency.

Pediatric Day Health Center

These centers serve medically fragile individuals under the age of 21, including technology dependent children, who require nursing supervision and possibly therapeutic interventions all or part of the day due to a medically complex condition. These facilities offer an alternative or supplement to receiving in-home nursing care. Pediatric day health care (PDHC) may be provided up to seven days per week and up to 12 hours per day as documented by the beneficiary's plan of care (POC).

Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Audiology Services

If a child or youth requires rehabilitation services such as physical, occupational or speech therapy, psychology, or audiology services, these services can be provided at school, through the EarlySteps early intervention program, in an outpatient facility, in a rehabilitation center, at home, or in a combination of settings, depending on the child's needs.

For Medicaid to cover these services at school (ages 3 to 21), or through the early intervention program with EarlySteps (ages birth to 3), the services must be part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). For Medicaid to cover the services through an outpatient facility, rehabilitation center, or home health, they must be ordered by a physician and be prior-authorized by Medicaid or the MCO.

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For information on receiving these therapies contact your school or early intervention center or other providers. EarlySteps contacts for each parish are listed on this web page:

<https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/609>. Call the Specialty Care Resource Line for referral assistance at 1-877-455-9955 for Legacy Medicaid or call your MCO using the contacts listed above under Mental Health to locate other therapy providers.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Children and youth can obtain any medically necessary medical supplies, equipment and appliances needed to correct, or improve physical or mental conditions. Medical equipment and supplies must be ordered by a physician. Once ordered by a physician, the supplier of the equipment or supplies must request approval for them from Medicaid or the MCO.

If you need a service that is not listed above contact the Specialty Care Resource Line toll-free at 1-877-455- 9955 or TTY 1-877-544-9544 or the participant's MCO Member Services or Medicaid managed care case manager.