



Educating New Mothers About EPSDT/Preventive Health Screens

One of the most important steps for taking care of a newborn is a well-child checkup with the child's primary care provider (PCP) in the days following birth. Many parents don't know why this is important. Hospital staff can inform and educate new mothers about the importance of the first well-child checkup and what it entails.

TALKING ABOUT EPSDT/WELL-CHILD CHECKUPS

- **Explain that EPSDT/Preventive Health Screen is the same as "well-child care."** Some parents may have already heard the term "EPSDT" but not know exactly what it is.
- **Make sure the Medicaid client knows** that Medicaid and ArKids A cover well-child checkups through age 21 and ArKids B through age 19.
- **Explain that the baby will need** several well-child checkups in the first two years of life.
- **Go over some of the well-child services available to them:**
 - Physical exam
 - Growth and development
 - Immunizations (shots)
 - Vision/hearing screenings
 - Nutrition
 - Dental (starting in toddler years)
- **Ask if they have a PCP for their baby.** If they do not, tell them that ConnectCare will help them find one. The number for ConnectCare is 1-800-275-1131 (TDD: 1-800-322-5580).
- **Make sure they have transportation to get to the well-child checkup.** If they have ARKids A, they can get a free ride by calling 1-888-987-1200, option 1.

RESOURCES

- **For more information** about well-child checkups, including video testimonials, well-child checkup schedule and other EPSDT resources, visit afmc.org/EPSDT
- **For a full rundown** of Arkansas Medicaid benefits, find the Arkansas Medicaid Handbook at afmc.org/individuals/arkansans-on-medicaid/
- **For an easy-to-read EPSDT booklet**, visit afmc.org/EPSDT

