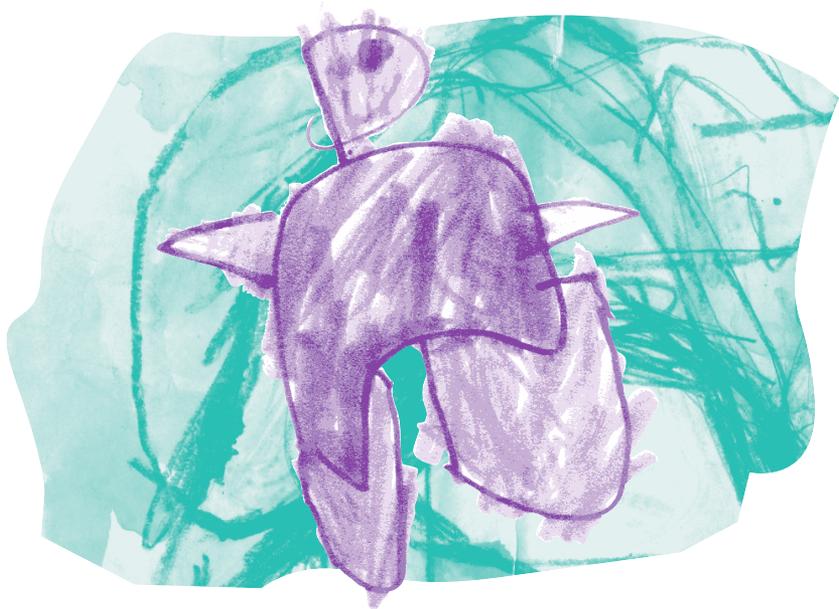


Parent Guide

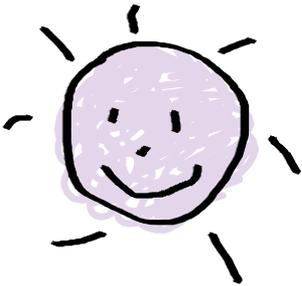
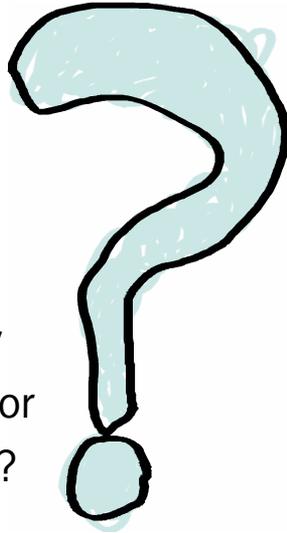
to Accessing
Mental Health Services
for Your Child through

HealthCheck



Does your child
have a MA card?

Are you concerned
that your child may
have an emotional or
behavioral problem?



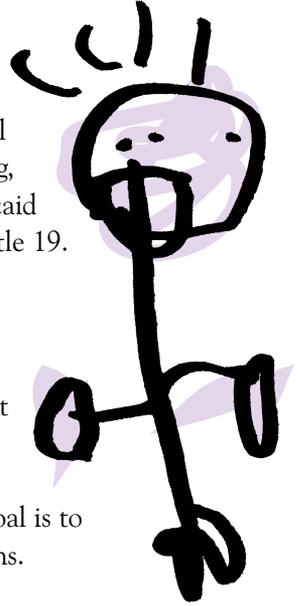
If the answer to these
questions is “yes,” did you
know that a program
called HEALTHCHECK
may make it possible
for your child to get help?

How do I know if my child is eligible for HealthCheck?

All children under age 21 who are receiving Medicaid or BadgerCare benefits are eligible. If your child has a Medicaid card, he/she is eligible.

What is HealthCheck?

HealthCheck is a comprehensive and preventive healthcare program for children under the age of 21. It is the name Wisconsin has given to a federal Medicaid benefit, the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Medicaid may also be called: MA, Medical Assistance or Title 19.



What does HealthCheck do?

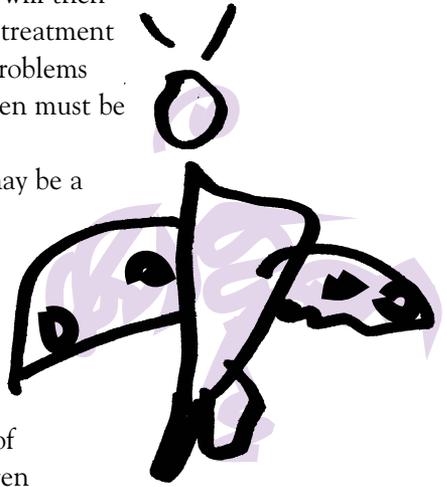
The purpose of HealthCheck is to find and correct or improve any health problems your child may have early in his or her life. HealthCheck makes treatment available to persons under age 21. Its goal is to prevent or minimize major, lifelong health problems.

HealthCheck:

- Provides screening exams for childhood health problems
- Gives a right to treatment that is considered medically necessary for any problems that are found in the exams

Treatments for health problems are not restricted to only those covered by Wisconsin's state Medicaid plan, but include the health conditions on a longer federal list as well. HealthCheck screenings also meet the physical exam requirements for Head Start, Child Care or WIC (Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Program), and for school physicals.

The first screening will include medical, vision, hearing and dental exams. It also includes any necessary lab tests, immunizations and developmental guidance. After the exams, your child will then be referred for further evaluation and treatment to persons who can treat any health problems that are found in the screen. The screen must be done by a person who is certified as a HealthCheck screener. That person may be a doctor, a physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, public health nurse or a registered nurse. Medicaid certified primary care physicians are automatically certified to perform HealthCheck screens. Local health departments are important providers of HealthCheck screening exams. Children enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (HMO) must get their HealthCheck screen through their HMO. The agency that employs the person who does the screening must be certified to provide HealthCheck screenings.



Why should I get a HealthCheck screening for my child?

Whether or not you think that your child may have any health problems, it is best to find out about them and get them treated early.

If I believe that my child should be screened for a mental health problem during a HealthCheck appointment, how can I make sure that that happens?

Do not assume that your child will be automatically screened for mental health problems during a HealthCheck screen. Most HealthCheck screens

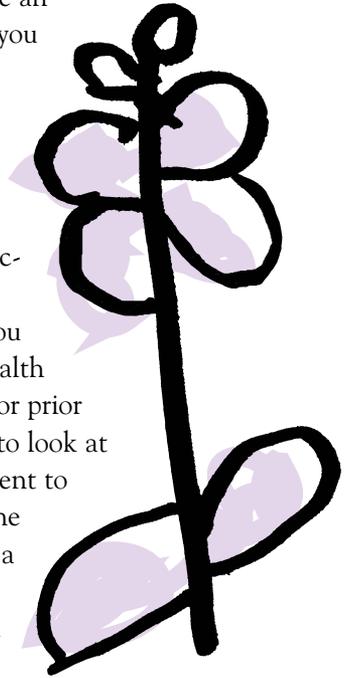
are done by primary care physicians who are not trained to do in depth mental health evaluations. As a result, many children who receive a HealthCheck screen are not referred for mental health treatment even if treatment is needed.

If you have concerns about your child's mental health, you should tell the person who is doing the screening about those concerns and ask that your child have a mental health screen.

What if a mental health problem is found in my child during a HealthCheck screening?

The HealthCheck screener will help you make an appointment for follow-up care and can help you find a doctor or therapist if needed.

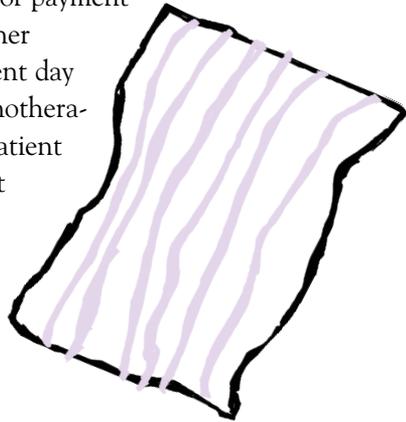
For a child to receive a service listed under the federal rules, the service must be proven medically necessary and will need to go through a prior authorization process. The doctor or therapist will complete the necessary prior authorization forms and submit them. You will need to work closely with your mental health provider when he/she is preparing the forms for prior authorization. You have the right as a parent to look at prior authorization materials before they are sent to the Wisconsin Medicaid office for review. If the prior authorization is denied, you will receive a letter explaining the denial. The letter will also describe your right to appeal the decision and how to request a hearing before an administrative hearing officer.



What mental health services are available under HealthCheck in Wisconsin?

If a health condition, such as a serious emotional, behavior or mental health problem, is found in the screening, is not covered under Wisconsin's Medicaid plan, and your health provider thinks that treatment for it is medically necessary, the treatment for it may be covered under federal rules. Many available services are considered optional according to federal Medicaid rules. In 1989 the federal government mandated that states must make available any medically necessary service that is allowable under federal Medicaid regulations. In Wisconsin, those services are included under a group of services called "HealthCheck Other Services."

Mental health services for children that can be accessed and have been approved for payment under Wisconsin HealthCheck Other Services include child and adolescent day treatment, intensive in-home psychotherapy, some in-home community outpatient services, targeted case management services, transportation assistance, and family support services.



However, under federal Medicaid law, the following mental health services may also be covered under HealthCheck if they have received prior authorization and are proven to be medically necessary for your child:

- Wrap-around mental health services
- Mobile treatment and crisis intervention services
- Family respite care

Other services in addition to those above may also be covered.

What if my child has already received a HealthCheck screen that did not include screening for emotional or behavioral problems? Can I or another person request an additional HealthCheck screen?

Yes. Any person in or outside of the healthcare system (for example, a parent or teacher) who thinks the child may have an emotional or behavioral problem and would like a further evaluation to identify it can request another visit for further screening. This additional visit is called an “interperiodic screening.”

What if my child is already getting services for an emotional/behavioral disability? Can those services be covered under HealthCheck Other Services?

Possibly. Ask the mental health professional who is providing services to your child to help you get a HealthCheck screen for your child and to get the prior authorization process started.

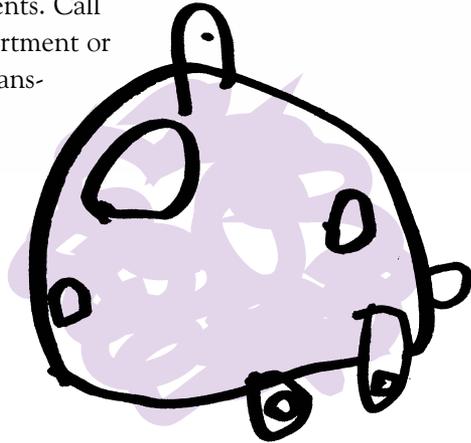
A parent who knows that various mental health services are covered under federal HealthCheck law is in a good position to be an advocate for his/her child’s mental health needs. You can call attention to your child’s entitlement to a wide list of mental health services available under HealthCheck. In doing that, you are also acting as an advocate for other children in need of help.

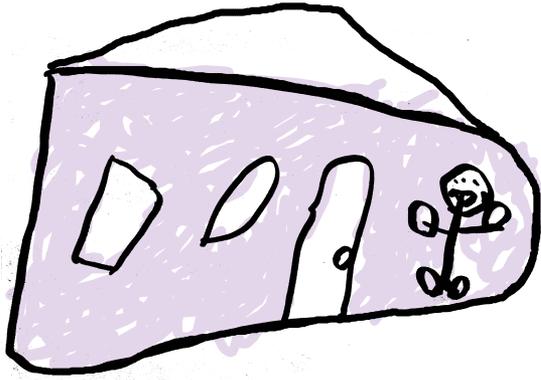
How much will a HealthCheck screen cost?

There is no charge or co-pay for a HealthCheck screen for a child up to age 18.

Can I get help with transportation to my child's HealthCheck appointment?

A local county Department of Human Services or Social Services, or a Tribal Agency is required to help you get your child to all HealthCheck appointments. Call either your county Department or your Tribal agency for transportation assistance.





If I have additional questions, who can I contact?

Medicaid rules and regulations are very complicated. If you have questions about or problems with HealthCheck or wish to locate your nearest HealthCheck provider, call the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services/Division of Health Care Financing at this toll free number: **1-800-722-2295** or, for general information about children's mental health and accessing mental health services for your child through HealthCheck, call: **Wisconsin Family Ties at: 1-800-422-7145**

Our Family Advocates can answer questions you may have about children's mental, emotional and behavioral disabilities. They can also refer you to someone who can assist you to better understand Medicaid rules and regulations.

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Illustrations by Ian and Lydia Pavelko

Notes



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