

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
February 13, 2020

PI 20-03

TO: Human Service Zones
Division of Juvenile Services
Tribal Social Services
Licensed Child Placing Agencies (PATH, LSS, Youthworks)
Regional Representatives

FROM: Kelsey Bless, Permanency Administrator

SUBJECT: Health Tracks – Foster Care Permanency

PROGRAMS: Foster Care Program
624-05-15-50-08

RETENTION: Until Manualized

Children and Family Services updated relevant medical policy to offer clarity and consistency with ND Medical Services. The historic SFN 1819 has been repealed and providers are using the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures forms to provide assessment for Health Tracks in North Dakota. There is not a significant change for foster care case managers as the requirements to obtain a Health Tracks screening within 30 days of foster care entry remains. This is required as a baseline indicator for custodians to be aware of any medical, physical, developmental, or emotional needs the child may have that require referrals for service. The only change foster care case managers may notice will be the assessment form or summary results may appear different and may vary depending on the provider completing the Health Tracks screening.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact Kelsey Bless at 328-3581 or kmbless@nd.gov.

Health Tracks 624-05-15-50-08

Federal law specifies that all persons under 21 years of age who are eligible for medical services through Title XIX, including children in foster care, must be informed of Health Tracks Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), known in North Dakota as Health Tracks is designed to detect health problems at an early age. ~~Consent must be obtained for Health Tracks screening, diagnosis, and treatment. The Health Tracks "Informing & Referral" form must be signed by the appropriate individuals to show evidence that Health Tracks services were offered.~~

A Health Track screening or a well-child check must be completed within 30 days of entry into foster care and completed at least annually. The screening includes developmental and mental health assessments, as well as assessments for physical, dental and optical health needs. The

professional providing the Health Track screening will assist the child's foster care case manager in making referrals if additional services are needed. A copy of the Health Tracks screening must be placed in the child's case file and dates of the screening must be entered into the data management system.

~~The following questions should be asked when considering whether Health Tracks screening is appropriate.~~

- ~~1. Has the child had a complete physical exam within the past year?~~
- ~~2. Has the child had a dental exam with the past year?~~
- ~~3. Has the child had a vision test within the past year?~~
- ~~4. Has the child received a hearing test within the past year?~~
- ~~5. Are the child's immunizations up-to-date?~~

~~If any of the above questions are answered "no," it is recommended that screening services be obtained. The county director or agency representative responsible for the child should determine the appropriateness of a Health Tracks screening depending upon individual circumstance and the length of placement.~~

Medicaid Coverage 624-05-15-50-09

Medicaid eligibility questions regarding foster children should be referred to the ~~county of financial responsibility~~ Human Service Zone financially responsible for the care of the child. If the child is eligible for Title IV-E benefits, this child becomes "categorically" Medicaid eligible. The eligibility worker will authorize Medicaid coverage accordingly. If the child is not eligible for Title IV-E benefits, a Medicaid determination must be made according to policy set forth by ND Medicaid policy. See [DN 1475](#) "Foster Children – ~~Medicaid~~ Medical Services" for quick reference.

Foster Care Case Managers must know:

1. For each new foster care entry, case managers must complete the SFN 641 TITLE IV-E/TITLE XIX APPLICATION - FOSTER CARE.
2. To inform the child's foster care provider and medical provider of the foster child's Medicaid ID.
3. If seeking placement with a therapeutic/treatment foster care provider, a child's Medicaid eligibility must be determined prior to referral.
4. Excess medical expenses billed to the ~~financial-countycustodial agency~~, not reimbursable by North Dakota Medicaid or other insurance, are not a foster care expense and cannot be paid with foster care funding. It is important case management assist foster care providers in identifying and utilizing medical providers who accept ND Medicaid or who are willing to enroll as ND Medicaid providers.
5. Medicaid eligibility for young people aging out of ND foster care must meet the requirements of Medicaid eligibility policy in order to obtain and maintain Medicaid until the age of 26. See [DN 1476](#) "Former Foster Youth – ~~Medicaid~~ Medical Services" for quick reference. Most importantly, the child must
 - a. Age out of ND foster care and
 - b. Upon aging out, the child must be also receiving ND Medicaid.