All infants, children, and adolescent patients through age 21 years must have access to comprehensive health care benefits that will ensure their optimal health and well-being. The following services should be included in the health benefit plans offered by all private and public insurers. These services should be performed in a cost-effective manner that does not compromise the highest quality of care in a variety of appropriate settings. As these services are physician directed and medically necessary, they should not be limited and should include all of the following:

1. Medical care, including (a) health supervision with its preventive care and immunizations according to the "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care" of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and, (b) diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness, developmental disabilities, learning disorders, and behavioral problems.
2. Surgical care.
3. Mental health services including those appropriate for treatment of substance abuse and other psychosocial problems, as directed or prescribed by a physician.
4. Emergency and trauma care services.
5. Inpatient hospital services.
6. Specialty and pediatric subspecialty consultations occurring either in the inpatient or outpatient setting.
7. Family planning services.
8. Pregnancy services including: (a) genetic counseling and related services as needed; (b) prenatal care; (c) prenatal consultation with a pediatrician; (d) care of all complications; (e) counseling on all pregnancy options; (f) elective termination of pregnancy; (g) care for the pregnancy of a single dependent of the policy holder.
9. Care of all newborns and infants including: (a) Attendance and management at high-risk deliveries; (b) health supervision; (c) treatment of congenital anomalies and other illnesses or injuries.
10. Laboratory and pathology services.
11. Diagnostic and therapeutic radiology services.
12. Anesthesia services.
13. Rehabilitative and early intervention services and therapies delivered under the direction of a physician, including, but not limited to: (a) physical therapy; (b) speech therapy; (c) occupational therapy.
14. Medically necessary home health care or the services of a licensed private duty nurse as directed by a physician.
15. Hospice care.
17. Long-term care services delivered at home or in an intermediate care or skilled nursing facility in lieu of hospital care.
18. Case management and care coordination required by those with special health care needs.
19. Medical and social services required to evaluate and treat suspected child physical and sexual abuse or neglect as directed by a physician in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
20. Transfer/transport to a hospital or health facility as directed by a physician.
22. Nutritional counseling and assessments as performed, directed, or prescribed by a physician.
23. Prescription drugs, medical and surgical supplies, corrective eyeglasses or lens, hearing aids, and special nutritional supplements.
24. Rental or purchase of durable medical equipment and prostheses/braces.

The recommendations in this statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

REFERENCE

Scope of Health Care Benefits for Infants, Children, and Adolescents Through Age 21 Years

*Pediatrics* 1993;91;508

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