

Overview:

Alabama Medicaid (Medicaid) providers who are considered teaching specialty providers may provide services to Medicaid recipients **without** a Primary Care Physician (PCP) referral. Medicaid claims can be processed for payment without a referral, however, the absence of communication between PCPs and specialists may hinder optimal coordination of medical care. Therefore, communication is encouraged. The Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) referral remains in place to assist with managing the fourteen-office visit limit.

Why is it important to maintain communication?

To ensure quality of care for the patient, it is best for the specialist and the PCP to maintain good communication. While the claims payment is not always dependent on having a referral, it is best to communicate.

Which providers qualify as teaching physicians?

Teaching physicians are those employed by or under contract with a medical school that is part of a public university system or children's hospital healthcare. The following are identified by Medicaid as meeting this definition:

- The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
- Children's of Alabama
- The University of South Alabama (USA)
 - Children's and Women's Hospital
 - USA Health University Hospital

Which providers do NOT qualify as teaching physician?

Below are examples of some providers who do not meet criteria:

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC)
- Health Department (ADPH)
- Private Providers who are not identified above

What do providers need to know about EPSDT referrals?

- EPSDT referral process has NOT changed
- Services provided as a result of an EPSDT screening continue to require an EPSDT referral
- EPSDT referrals assist with managing the fourteen-office visit limit for recipients under the age of 21
- Refer to [Appendix A](#) of the Medicaid Provider Billing Manual for EPSDT referral policies
- Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) can make EPSDT referrals

Which services require an EPSDT referral?

Below are examples of some services that require an EPSDT referral:

- Psychology Services
- Therapies - Physical, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Speech, and Occupational
- Chiropractor Services
- Vision Services for medical problems (routine does not)
- Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies - For details, visit https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-DME/4.3.12_DME.aspx

What do teaching specialty providers need to know about referrals?

- Teaching specialty providers do not require a PCP referral.
- Teaching specialty providers are encouraged, when indicated to require PCP referrals inside and outside of the teaching facility. (see Form 362 with instructions on the following link: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/9.0_Resources/9.4_Forms_Library/9.4.19_ACHN_PCP_Forms.aspx)

Note Most specialists outside of a teaching facility must have a referral to provide services and will not receive payment from Medicaid without a referral. A list of specialists outside of the teaching facilities not requiring a referral can be found in [Chapter 40](#) of the Provider Billing Manual.*

Where can a provider go for details regarding the ACHN program?

https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0_Managed_Care/5.1_ACHN/5.1.3_ACHN_Providers.aspx

For questions related to the referral process for specialty providers associated with teaching facilities, contact Patricia Toston via email at Patricia.Toston@medicaid.alabama.gov or Travis Houser at Travis.Houser@medicaid.alabama.gov.