

# INFANT and CHILD HEALTH

## Well Child Check Program

### **What is the purpose of the Well Child Check program?**

To provide quality assurance and technical assistance to public and private health care providers of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services.

### **What does the Well Child Check program offer?**

A team of Public Health registered nurses provides quality assurance program reviews, and offers technical assistance and training to public and private providers throughout the state. The team examines health records, looks at required equipment and facilities, shares findings with the providers and submits required reports. The team offers on-site and telephone technical assistance, and provides formal and informal training according to identified needs. This initiative takes place through contractual arrangements between the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Family Health Branch.

### **What is a Well Child Screen?**

Well Child screening provides preventive and primary health care to infants, children, and adolescents based on recommended standards and best practices. Screens consist of a comprehensive unclothed physical examination, a comprehensive health and developmental history, developmental assessment, anticipatory guidance, measurements, vision and hearing tests, certain laboratory procedures and lead risk assessment. Services are provided by physicians, specially trained public health nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants.

### **How many people does the Well Child Check program help?**

In FY 2005, there were 997,248 Georgia children (birth –21 years) who were Medicaid members and 208,221 children (birth to 18 years) were PeachCare for Kids members.

### **Why is the Well Child Check program important?**

Georgia's Well Child Check program helps to assure that health care providers have the knowledge and tools to conduct well child examinations, identify and/or treat health problems, and make appropriate and timely referrals. This may prevent exacerbation of children's health issues before they become complex or disabling and require more costly treatment. The need for quality assurance, technical assistance, and training to providers intensifies as more children are enrolled in Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids, and continue to require comprehensive health screens. Quality assurance assures that providers are not only doing the right things, but also are doing them right.

### **Who is eligible for services provided by the program?**

Well child screening providers serving Medicaid and Peachcare for Kids children are eligible for quality assurance, technical assistance and training.

### **Where are services located?**

Well child screening services are available in some hospital clinics, public health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and private provider offices. Quality assurance, training and technical assistance is offered at the providers' location.

### **Outcome measures**

Increase the number of Well Child providers who receive quality assurance, technical assistance and training.

### **Legislative Authority**

Official Code of Georgia (OCGA) 31-12-6, 31-12-7

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