

Head Start/Early Head Start Policies and Procedures

Health Status Determination (Medical/Dental)

Policy

To ensure that every child enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start has an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care which includes medical and dental health, a determination of availability of health care access will be made within 90 days of enrollment in the Head Start and Early Head Start program.

Rationale: Head Start Performance Standard CFR 45 1304.20(a)(1)(i). To promote healthy development, every child needs a source of continuous, accessible health care that is available even after the child leaves Head Start/Early Head Start. Each child visits this health care provider, on a schedule of preventive and primary health care, to ensure that problems are quickly identified and addressed, as early identification and treatment for health problems reduce complications and improve health outcomes.

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Health Status Determination (Medical/Dental) Procedure

Procedure:

1. Family Service Workers (FSW) and Home Visitors (HV) will request from the family at time of enrollment a copy of the child's most recent Physical Exam.
2. For preschool children who have not had an exam performed within 1 year prior of time of enrollment, the parent will be asked to schedule an exam to be performed within 30 days of enrollment.
3. Family Service Workers (FSW) and Home Visitors (HV) will also request from parents of preschool children a copy of a dental examination performed within 1 year prior of time of enrollment or have parent schedule a dental exam to be performed within 30 days of enrollment.
4. Upon receipt of copy of physical exam from parent, the Family Service Worker (FSW) or Home Visitor (HV) will review the report for completeness and document the date the report was received as the child's Medical Health Status Determination in ChildPlus and on the Family Contact Form.
 - **NOTE:** The date the FSW or HV actually receives the report is used as the date for determination of Medical Health Status, **NOT** the date of the exam. For example, an exam may have been performed on August 20 and then given to the FSW or HV on October 21. The date "October 21" is placed as the child's Medical Health Status Determination
5. Upon receipt of copy of dental exam from the parent, the Family Service Worker (FSW) or Home Visitor (HV) will review the report for completeness and document the date the report was received as the child's Dental Health Status Determination in ChildPlus and on the Family Contact Form.
 - **NOTE:** The date the FSW or HV actually receives the report is used as the date for determination of Dental Health Status, **NOT** the date of the exam. For example, an exam may have been performed on July 17 and then given to the FSW or HV on October 21. The date "October 21" is placed as the child's Dental Health Status Determination

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6. If child has not had a physical performed within 1 year prior of enrollment and does not have a current physical appointment scheduled, the Family Service Worker will follow the Procedures for Physical Exam Exclusion.
NOTE: This requirement is only applicable to Center-Based programs.

7. If after 90 days from the child's enrollment date, the Family Service Worker (FSW) or Home Visitor (HV) is unable to obtain the enrollment dental examination, the child must be referred to SOP Health/Nutrition Services Unit.

8. If it is found by the Family Service Worker (FSW) or Home Visitor (HV) that the child is uninsured or underinsured and unable to access adequate medical or dental services, then the FSW or HV will follow-up with procedures for obtaining a Medical/Dental home.