

What is Texas Health Steps?

Texas Health Steps is Medicaid's medical and dental preventive child health service for individuals younger than 21 years old in Texas.

All children in DFPS conservatorship are eligible for this service including medical and dental care.

During doctor or dentist visits, the medical consenter should ask whether there is any other medical or dental care the child may need. Make sure the child receives the checkups and any follow-up recommendations in a timely manner

What Happens At a Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup?

The following tests and evaluations are conducted at a Texas Health Steps medical checkup:

- A complete physical examination is conducted.
- The doctor goes over the child or youth's medical history.
- A screening of nutritional, developmental, and mental health status is done.
- Age appropriate laboratory tests are conducted (e.g., blood work, TB screening, STD screening, pelvic exam, lead toxicity, HIV testing).
- Routine immunizations are taken care of.
- Health education which includes safety and wellness counseling is provided.
- Vision screening is done.
- Oral health screening and referral to a dental home is done, if needed.
- Hearing screening is done.
- Referrals to other health-care providers as needed.

When Should Texas Health Steps Medical Checkups be done?

- *Initial medical* checkups are due within 30 days after the child enters DFPS custody and *annually* around the child's birthday.
- Checkups are required more often for children under age three:
 - Newborn, 3-5 days, 2 weeks
 - 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 months
 - 2 and 2 ½ years

Reminder: The child must receive a timely Texas Health Steps Checkup by a Texas Health Steps provider. Sick visits and follow-ups do not count!

When should Texas Health Steps Dental checkups be done?

- Initial dental checkups are due within 60 days after the child enters DFPS custody (when the child is six months of age or older).
- Ongoing checkups are due every six months.