



# Effective Health Care

## State Variation in EPSDT Delivery Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- State variation in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) delivery will be considered for a potential new research project within the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Public payer

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator states that they are interested in a study of existing Medicaid data on EPSDT services to assess the application and variation of EPSDT across states. They are particularly interested in differences in billing and compliance and the impact that states' modification to EPSDT under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) has had on identification of health concerns. The nominator indicates that the methods used to track and report EPSDT services and data vary across states and that having information about this variation may help to inform the creation of a standardized method for collecting this information.

**Key Questions from Nominator:**

1. What is the variability in application of EPSDT across states (e.g., compliance rates- appointment completion and no show rates and billing differences and variability between urban and rural areas)?
2. What is the association, if any, to identification of developmental and health conditions in children under the age of 10 and treatment of those identified conditions?
3. What impact does states' modification to EPSDT, allowed under the DRA, have on the identification of developmental and health concerns and treatment of those identified concerns?
4. Is there any variability in harms, risks and/or side effects as a result of the variable application of EPSDT across states as it relates to short- and long-term health outcomes?

### Considerations

- The EPSDT service is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21. EPSDT was defined by law as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89) legislation and includes periodic screening (including a comprehensive health and developmental history, an unclothed physical exam, appropriate immunizations, laboratory tests, and health education), vision, dental, and hearing services.

- The nominator is interested in a study of existing state Medicaid data of EPSDT services to assess the application and variation of EPSDT across states, including: 1) the variability in application across states (e.g. compliance rates - appointment completion and no show rates and billing differences and variability between urban and rural areas), 2) the association, if any, to identification of developmental and health conditions in children under the age of 10 and treatment of those identified conditions, and 3) what impact states' modification to EPSDT, allowed under the DRA (Deficit Reduction Act) has had on identification of developmental and health concerns and treating those identified conditions.
  
- Because the provision of well-child care is an important health priority, practice variation exists, and data may be available for analysis, this topic will be considered for potential new research by the Effective Health Care Program.