



NORTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background

The federally mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program is administered under the name Health Check in North Carolina. The Health Check Program was developed in 1993 as a statewide initiative to improve Medicaid-enrolled children's access to preventive health services. Health Check participants are eligible to receive comprehensive well child check ups, immunizations, and vision, hearing, and dental screening services on a regular basis throughout childhood. Medicaid covers any medically necessary diagnostic or treatment services needed to ameliorate or treat conditions identified through screening.

The Health Check Program is administered as a cooperative venture between DMA/CCNC and the DPH, Women's and Children's Health Section. The ongoing development of Health Check is planned in collaboration with professional medical societies, Smart Start, and other statewide initiatives in North Carolina.

Recipients are encouraged to receive comprehensive health checkups and immunizations on a regular schedule. A complete Health Check screening consists of the following age appropriate components:

- ◆ Comprehensive unclothed physical exam.
- ◆ Comprehensive health history.
- ◆ Nutritional assessment.
- ◆ Anticipatory guidance/health education.
- ◆ Measurements, blood pressure, and vital signs.
- ◆ Developmental screening, including mental, emotional and behavioral.
- ◆ Immunizations.
- ◆ Vision, hearing, and dental screenings.
- ◆ Laboratory procedures.

All components must be documented in the patient's medical record.

Health Check Coordinators (HCCs)

A state-wide network of HCCs strengthens the Health Check Program. Located in 100 counties and the Qually Boundary, HCCs assist families in obtaining medical benefits and other community services and support needed by their children. HCCs reach out to communities to educate families, consumers, and health care

providers about Health Check and Health Choice and to help enroll eligible children. HCCs network with other child-focused agencies and organizations within their communities to ensure coordination of care and so appropriate referrals can be made. Most importantly, HCCs use a computer database to follow Medicaid enrolled children in their county to make sure that they are receiving well-child check-ups and recommended follow-up care.

HCCs are located in CCNC administrative entities, and in some Smart Start Partnerships. They work closely with departments of social services, MCRs, Immunization Projects, WIC, PCP, and other programs and projects.

Outreach/Education Campaign

Health Check is promoted in conjunction with Health Choice, the child health insurance program in North Carolina. Health Check outreach activities promote the importance of regular preventive care and educate parents as to when, how, and where to obtain services. This is accomplished through:

- ◆ Personal contact with the parents of Medicaid eligible children by HCCs.
- ◆ New member's education.
- ◆ ER follow-up.
- ◆ Medical home concept.
- ◆ The North Carolina Family Health Resource Line, toll-free hotline families can call to receive an application, for information about Health Check or Health Choice, and for help understanding or translating written information they receive from the program.
- ◆ Public Service Announcements on TV and Radio.
- ◆ Newspaper Articles.
- ◆ Brochures, Posters, Envelope Inserts, Fact Sheets.
- ◆ Presentations at health fairs and other community events.
- ◆ Parental notification of benefits and services.
- ◆ Additional activities planned and materials developed by local coalitions in each county.

Health Check Automated Information Notification System (AINS)

Health Check utilizes AINS to collect data and provide families with information regarding their children's participation in Health Check.

AINS can:

- ◆ Notify families of when their child is due for a Health Check screening or immunization.
- ◆ Remind families to schedule appointments with their PCP for Health Check screening and referrals.
- ◆ Serve as a reporting system for HCC.
- ◆ Produce special reports for program evaluation.

Linkage to Other Community Programs

Health Check fosters linkages with other important resources for young children and their families, such as the Smart Start, WIC, and Immunization programs. At the local level, HCCs are instrumental in assisting with the implementation of new initiatives and in working together with representatives from other programs to encourage coordination of program services, to increase awareness of all programs, and to assure that families are referred appropriately.

Implementation

The Health Check Outreach Project began in November 1993 and has been implemented in the following counties:

County	Date Implemented	County	Date Implemented	County	Date Implemented
Alamance	04/08	Cherokee	10/95	Granville	11/93
Alexander	12/01	Chowan	04/95	Greene	10/95
Alleghany	07/01	Clay	10/95	Guilford	11/93
Anson	02/10	Cleveland	11/01	Halifax	10/94
Ashe	04/95	Columbus	01/97	Harnett	10/01
Avery	10/95	Craven	06/07	Haywood	11/93
Beaufort	02/10	Cumberland	11/93	Henderson	04/05
Bertie	03/98	Currituck	07/01	Hertford	04/95
Bladen	05/02	Dare	01/98	Hoke	11/93
Brunswick	01/98	Davidson	03/07	Hyde	10/01
Buncombe	11/93	Davie	08/01	Iredell	05/08
Burke	11/93	Duplin	10/95	Jackson	10/95
Cabarrus	09/01	Durham	11/93	Johnston	03/08
Caldwell	03/97	Edgecombe	11/93	Jones	10/95
Camden	04/95	Forsyth	03/02	Lee	04/02
Carteret	06/07	Franklin	11/93	Lenoir	10/95
Caswell	05/02	Gaston	06/01	Lincoln	07/06
Catawba	06/95	Gates	06/95	Macon	10/95
Chatham	10/95	Graham	10/95	Madison	11/93

County	Date Implemented	County	Date Implemented	County	Date Implemented
Martin	04/04	Pitt	10/93	Swain	10/95
McDowell	09/01	Polk	09/01	Transylvania	04/05
Montgomery	07/03	Qualla Boundary	04/01	Tyrrell	07/03
Moore	04/02	Randolph	08/04	Union	01/02
Nash	11/93	Richmond	07/97	Vance	11/93
New Hanover	01/98	Robeson	11/93	Wake	11/93
Northampton	10/94	Rockingham	07/00	Warren	11/93
Onslow	11/93	Rowan	07/03	Washington	04/04
Orange	11/93	Rutherford	09/01	Watauga	07/01
Pamlico	03/98	Sampson	10/95	Wayne	07/97
Pasquotank	04/95	Scotland	11/93	Wilkes	10/94
Pender	10/94	Stanley	10/95	Wilson	10/95
Perquimans	04/95	Stokes	03/98	Yadkin	07/03
Person	11/93	Surry	10/95	Yancey	07/01

Appendix 1-4