

Required Health Assessments for Children Entering Foster Care



All foster children must have a complete health assessment with a primary healthcare provider (PCP) within 30 days of placement in foster care.

As their foster parents, you may be asked to schedule this appointment. The information you provide to the child's PCP and the information they can share with you is important to the health and wellbeing of the child placed in your home. If your foster child already has a relationship with a healthcare provider, please make every effort to maintain that relationship. If a PCP has not been identified for your foster child, you may schedule an appointment with the PCP of your choice, preferably as soon as possible.

Please share this information with your child's PCP:

- The child in your home is a foster youth.
- The child's case worker name and contact information.
- Any medical information you received about the child when they were placed with you, including any current concerns, medications or allergies. If you weren't provided this information when the child came to your home, you can request it from the caseworker.
- Any patterns or behaviors you have noticed since the child was placed with you, especially regarding sleeping, eating, toileting and adapting to your family.
- If the child was being seen at a different PCP and it is not possible to have the child seen there, provide the name of the old PCP and/or clinic.
- If the child was hospitalized prior to being placed in your home, bring the hospital discharge summary with you.

Remember: In addition to the health assessment with the PCP being scheduled within 30 days of the child entering foster care, they are also required to have a:

- **Dental exam and cleaning** within 30 days of coming into foster care;
- **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Screening** within 60 days of coming into foster care;
- **Mental Health Assessment**, if they are 3 years or older, within 60 days of coming into foster care; and
- **Early Intervention Screening**, if they are under 3 years old, within 60 days of coming into foster care.



If the PCP knows the child, here are some questions you can ask:

- Does the child have any known medical concerns or issues they are being treated for at this time?
- Has the child been taking any medication that needs to be continued?
- Is there any known family medical history that needs to be told to the case worker, such as heart disease or diabetes?
- What does the PCP know about the child's birth — Where? Weight? Full term? Exposure to substances?
- Has the child ever been hospitalized or had other surgeries?
- Does the child have any known allergies or bad reactions to immunizations or medications?
- Is there any other information the physician could give you that would help you care for the child?

Ask the PCP for a visit summary when you leave and provide that to the case worker.

This usually has your child's height and weight on it and that is helpful information that is tracked by DHS.



Well Child Check-ups

Did you know well child check-ups aren't just for babies? Kids in foster care should have well child check-ups at the following ages and frequencies:

- **0 months to 6 months:** every month
- **6 months to 24 months:** every three months
- **2 years to 21 years:** every six months and during times of major change (for example, a change in placement or failed reunification)