

## HealthCheck for All West Virginia Children

West Virginia's state health payers efforts to address chronic disease prevention starts with children entering kindergarten and hopes to build a partnership with commercial payers that will allow the gathering of baseline data statewide. Despite the benefits of a comprehensive well-child screen, West Virginia's children do not always receive the recommended screenings, and care is sometimes duplicated or missed. HealthCheck (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program, EPSDT) provides a protocol for screening a wide range of physical, developmental and behavioral conditions, including chronic diseases as asthma, diabetes and obesity.

Starting in September 2007, the HealthCheck protocol will be the standard for well-child screens for children entering Kindergarten. This protocol meets the standards of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) *Bright Future* guidelines, thus ensuring children receive a high quality well-child exam. Parents will be required to furnish evidence their child received a HealthCheck screen before the child enters kindergarten in 2008.

In addition, all three State payers (Medicaid, WVCHIP and PEIA) will require that this protocol be the standard for well-child screens billed to them for children ages birth through 20. Providers are expected to use the HealthCheck form or an approved equivalent to document the unclothed physical, vision, hearing, dental and development screens and other services required under the HealthCheck protocol.

The benefits of using the HealthCheck protocol for all children are:

- Comprehensive range of preventive and primary health services
- Thorough screening of consistent quality for all children entering school
- Early identification of diseases, mental illnesses and developmental delays
- Assured follow-up and treatment of conditions found through the health exam
- Increasing the number of children (and possibly other family members) with a medical home
- Establishing and improving communication between families and health care providers

Copies of the HealthCheck form or approved equivalent are to be part of the child's medical record and made available upon request to assure payment for services billed under CPT codes of 99381 to 99385 for new patients and 99391 to 99395 for established patients. The HealthCheck program has also developed a privacy compliant version that will allow ease of sharing with school and child care authorities when they request it from parents.

WVCHIP and PEIA will monitor compliance of using the HealthCheck protocol through post payment audits. Take back payments will occur if the HealthCheck form or an approved equivalent are not part of the medical record.

For more information about HealthCheck or to download screening forms, visit [www.wvdhhr.org/mcfh/ICAH/healthcheck/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/mcfh/ICAH/healthcheck/).