

# INITIAL HEALTH SCREEN

- **Initial Health Screens** help identify and manage a child's urgent medical problems that may be overlooked in the transition from their home into out-of-home placement with a caregiver.



## What is the purpose of an Initial Health Screen?

The Children's Administration wants to ensure that children placed in out-of-home care in Washington state receive the best health care possible.

Children who experience child abuse and neglect often have unmet health care needs.

To better meet the needs of children and identify critical physical health concerns, the Children's Administration needs your help to ensure that any child placed in your care receives an Initial Health Screen.

An Initial Health Screen should occur as soon as possible but no later than five (5) days after a child enters out-of-home care.

## Where do I take a child in my care for an Initial Health Screen?

Whenever possible a child should be given an Initial Health Screen by his or her own medical provider.

A child's social worker can help you find a qualified medical provider to complete the Initial Health Screen if the child's medical provider cannot see the child within 5 days of placement or if the child does not have a medical provider.

The Initial Health Screen may be completed by a Doctor (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA), or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

**NOTE: For children 12 and older, confidentiality laws do not allow caregivers to be given information about pregnancy, birth control, or treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.**

## What should I bring to the Initial Health Screen appointment?

Medical providers need to know as much health information about a child as possible. Often there is little or no health information available when children enter out-of-home care.

Ask a child's social worker for any health information including the Child Information/Placement Referral form (DSHS 15-300) which should be given to you within 3 days of the child's placement in your home.

When the Initial Health Screen is scheduled, the medical provider or clinic may ask you to bring any available medical information with you to the appointment.



## What will the doctor look for at the Initial Health Screen appointment?

The Initial Health Screen provides a quick look at the child's current health status, which includes:

- Height, weight, and growth.
- Blood pressure and other vital signs.
- Information about the child's health status.
- Immunization status, if available.
- For children 12 and older - questions related to sex and birth control.
- Complete physical exam. When necessary, the medical provider may also check the child's sexual development.
- Referrals to other medical specialists, if needed.

**Note: Whenever possible, ask the medical provider for a hard copy of the Initial Health Screen information. The social worker may also provide you with a pre-paid envelope to give to the medical provider so the information can be mailed directly to the social worker.**

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- ▶ Whenever possible, a child should be given an **Initial Health Screen** by his or her own medical provider.

*We value your time and effort to ensure that children receive the best and most timely health care possible.*

THANK YOU!

## Is a well-child exam still required within 30 days of a child's placement into my home?

Yes. The Initial Health Screen is a brief look at the child and does not address all of the areas included in a Well-Child exam, sometimes called the EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment).

If a child can be seen by his/her own medical provider for an Initial Health Screen, it is possible to complete the Well-Child exam at that time instead of scheduling two separate appointments. However, the appointment must cover all parts of the Well-Child/ EPSDT exam – including physical, developmental, mental health status, vision, and hearing.



## Who do I contact if I have questions?

**General questions:** Call the child's social worker

**Medicaid eligibility:** Call the Foster Care Medical Team at 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15480



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