The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) recently released Policy Bulletin MSA 13-06 regarding the Primary Care Provider’s (PCP) role in providing Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services. This bulletin includes information on obtaining informed consent for prescribing psychotropic medications to a Medicaid child in foster care. A summary of the bulletin is provided below.


The Primary Care Provider’s Role in Health Assessment
All children in foster care under the age of 21 must receive a full medical examination by a PCP within the first 30 days of entering foster care.

- The PCP’s office staff should ask for the completed Department of Human Services (DHS) Consent to Routine, Non-surgical Medical Care and Emergency Medical or Surgical Treatment form from the foster parent. If the foster care child is at least 18 years old, consent from the child must be received before being seen by the PCP.

- The PCP must complete the health maintenance visit regardless of if the child recently received a health maintenance visit prior to entering foster care. The medical evaluation must follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Bright Futures guidelines and the Medicaid EPSDT policy.

- The PCP will assess the child for medical, dental, developmental and mental health needs. The full medical evaluation will include an immunization review, health history and physical examination as indicated by the Bright Futures Recommendations for Preventive Health Care Periodicity Schedule.

- The medical examination should be documented on the age appropriate DHS Well Child Exam form (found at [http://www.michigan.gov/dhs-contracts](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs-contracts) under “Foster Care Forms”). Providers may use their own Well Child Exam form if the form contains all of the elements of the DHS form. Completed exams and screenings will become a part of the child’s medical record.

- A psychosocial/behavioral assessment must be completed at each scheduled EPSDT/preventive Well Child visit. For children in foster care, a validated and normed screening instrument must be used. The PCP is responsible for scoring and interpreting
the results of the screening instrument and proposing recommendations regarding follow up. If the child may benefit from mental health care, the PCP will notify the DHS foster care worker, the birth parents and the foster parents (when applicable).

- Recommended screening instruments include the Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional (ASQ-SE) or the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC). To get the screening instruments, visit the links below:

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<tr>
<th>ASQ-SE</th>
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<td>PSC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/tools.html">http://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/tools.html</a> under Pediatric Symptom Checklist</td>
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<td>PSC (in other languages)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/services/psc_forms.aspx">http://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/services/psc_forms.aspx</a></td>
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**Psychotropic Medication Treatment**

A psychiatric diagnosis using the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders must be made before prescribing psychotropic medications to any child in foster care.

- When a provider determines that the child requires psychotropic medication treatment, the prescribing PCP must obtain a filled out and signed informed consent form from either the **child’s birth parent** (when the child is a temporary court ward), **the child** (if the child is at least 18 years old) or other **legal guardian** (for State or permanent court wards) before treatment with any psychotropic medication begins.

- Foster parents cannot consent to administration of psychotropic medication. For questions regarding who may provide consent for treatment with psychotropic medications, the provider may contact the child’s DHS foster care worker. The DHS foster care worker’s contact information can be found on the DHS Consent to Routine, Non-surgical Medical Care and Emergency Medical or Surgical Treatment form.

- Informed consent must be documented by completing the DHS-1643, Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent form (found at http://www.michigan.gov/dhs-contracts under Foster Care Forms).

- If consent is denied by the child’s birth parent or other legal guardian, or the consent cannot be obtained and all parties involved agree the medication is needed, a court order shall be obtained by the DHS foster care worker to authorize the administration of the psychotropic medication to the child held in legal custody.

- If a child is prescribed psychotropic medication(s) prior to enrollment in the foster care system, the DHS-1643 form must be completed within 45 days of a child’s entry into the foster care system to assure uninterrupted psychotropic medication treatment. If the child is 18 years old, he/she can consent to, and/or refuse, medical treatment. A new informed consent form will be required if there is a change in provider, a change in medication or if the child has reached the age of 18. Informed consent forms must be renewed annually.