



## **HEALTH CARE EXAM REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

The State of California REQUIRES this information

**Children who are new to the Child Welfare System require a health assessment as soon as possible.** It should indicate if the child has health problems and pinpoint any special health care needs. The information obtained from medical records and all health assessments are recorded in the child's **Health and Education Passport (HEP)** in a timely fashion. The HEP should be taken to all medical, dental, mental health and educational visits pertaining to the child. If providers need a copy, they may make a copy or obtain one from the **Protective Services Worker (PSW)**, but you should always maintain a current copy of the HEP for your records and use. Remind doctors, dentists, teachers, mental health care providers, vision care providers and other health care providers to provide you with copies of any reports or documentation.

**You must use the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program for well-child physical exams.** A CHDP examination is a thorough medical examination usually performed by a CHDP health care provider. Every child in out-of-home placement is assigned a **Family and Children's Services Public Health Nurse (FCS PHN)** as part of the CHDP program. Your PSW or FCS PHN can explain this program to you and assist in scheduling a physical exam for each child. A record of every exam should be sent to your PSW or FCS PHN as soon as possible after each visit. **Encounter forms (1132-C Health and Dental Form) should be taken to all medical visits, dental and specialty visits.** Please have your provider complete the enclosed form at each visit. Fax, e-mail or mail a copy of the 1132-C form or any health reports to your assigned FCS PHN at (415) 355-2357, [NOD.line@sfgov.org](mailto:NOD.line@sfgov.org) or FCS Nursing Unit, PO Box 7988, San Francisco, CA 94120. Keep a copy for your file. If you need information, or have any questions, call the **FCS Nurse of the Day (NOD)** line at (415) 558-2656.

**A Comprehensive Intake Exam (CIE) is the first/initial CHDP exam.** A CIE assessment is only required **ONCE** at initial out-of-home placement with a care provider. If a child had a CIE, returns home, but then is placed in foster care again, another CIE is not necessary. The purpose of the CIE is to help establish a current health, mental, behavioral, and developmental profile for your child. A CIE also helps define a child's health and educational needs. It provides a complete health assessment: it is an opportunity to catch up on missing immunizations; it identifies needed treatments, allergies and referrals to any specialists.

**For children placed both in and out-of-county, a CIE is required within 30 days of placement in foster care.** CIEs for children placed in-county should be done at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), Children's Health Center (6M). If you were not provided an appointment when you picked up the child(ren) please contact the FCS CIE Scheduler at (415) 557-5488 to schedule an appointment within 10 days of the child(ren) being placed in your home. **Please note: CIE appointments are not scheduled through SFGH 6M.** For minors placed out-of-county, a CIE at SFGH is preferred, but may also be scheduled with a local CHDP provider. Have your local CHDP provider complete the foster care CIE out-of-county form 1736, at the time of the exam or provide an equivalent report. This form will be provided to you by your Resource Family Approval (RFA) SW. If you need to reschedule the CIE, please reschedule **no later** than a day prior to your scheduled appointment. If you have any questions regarding the CIE, contact your RFA SW, the PSW, FCS PHN or call the NOD line.

**For children one year of age and older, dental exams need to be completed within 30 days of the initial placement in foster care.**

Children need regular health care, and often need catch-up or more frequent health care, which Medi-Cal will cover. After the CIE assessment is completed, your child will need regular well-child visits at the following intervals:

- **For infants birth to 12 months**, seven CHDP exams should occur during the first year of life at the following ages:
  - 3-5 days after hospital discharge
  - By 1 month
  - 2 months
  - 4 months
  - 6 months
  - 9 months
  - 12 months
- **For toddlers 13 to 35 months**, four CHDP exams should occur at the following ages:
  - 15 months
  - 18 months
  - 24 months
  - 30 months
- **For children three to 17 years**, one medical exam is required each year (as long as the child remains in the same placement) and from **ages one to 17**, one dental exam is required annually.