

Components of the Initial 3-Day Medical Exam

Required by SB 11



Population:

All children taken into care by Child Protective Services (CPS).



Purpose of the Guideline:

Provide guidance to medical professionals on key components of an initial medical examination, provided no later than the third business day after CPS removal, or sooner based on urgency of child's condition.

If a child has an emergent or urgent care visit, the medical provider should consider completing the components below to meet the requirements of the 3-Day Medical Exam. The initial 3-Day Medical Exam is not in lieu of the required 30-day Texas Health Steps Exam. For more information on a child's medical history and clinical progress, please log into Superior's Secure Provider Portal to access the Health Passport tool.



Purpose of the 3-Day Medical Exam:

The purpose of this exam is to identify, treat, and provide caregiver education regarding management of a child's acute or chronic medical and mental health conditions.



Location:

Urgent: Any qualified, licensed medical professional/facility.

Non-urgent: Any STAR Health medical provider authorized and trained to provide complete medical exams.



Billing Guidance:

Claims should be submitted with the most appropriate Evaluation and Management (E/M) procedure code with the addition of a **U2 modifier** in the last position.



Report new disclosures and findings of child abuse or neglect to the CPS caseworker and the CPS hotline, 1-800-252-5400.

Medical Assessment	Component	Guidelines	Additional Instructions/Considerations
	Vital signs (including growth parameters)	Growth parameters include weight and height/length for all children and youth and head circumference for children under three years of age.	For children older than 2 years of age, consider calculation of Body Mass Index (BMI) to assess nutritional needs.
	History	CPS' reasons for removal with specific mention of presence or absence of sexual abuse, physical abuse, physical neglect, nutritional neglect, exposure to violence or environmental hazards.	Consider child abuse specialist consultation if guidance/assistance is needed, for example, when history or physical indicates concerns for sexual abuse, physical abuse, or failure to thrive. Evaluation of suspected/alleged physical or sexual abuse should follow established protocols.
		Known past medical history and current concerns, medications, allergies.	Report new disclosures or findings of child abuse or neglect to CPS caseworker and the CPS hotline (1-800-252-5400).
		Signs/symptoms of: ▶ health conditions related to risks reported/documented by CPS. ▶ physical and intellectual disabilities. ▶ vision, hearing, communication deficits. ▶ mental illness, suicidality, aggression or emotional distress. ▶ pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse.	
	Physical exam	Complete exam, including all body surfaces, with respect of child's level of distress.	Consider child abuse specialist consultation if guidance/assistance is needed, for example, when history or physical indicates concerns for sexual abuse, physical abuse, or failure to thrive. Evaluation of suspected/alleged physical or sexual abuse should follow established protocols. Report new disclosures or findings of child abuse or neglect to CPS caseworker and the CPS hotline (1-800-252-5400).
	Tests (laboratory, imaging, etc.)	At medical professional's discretion.	Consider child abuse specialist consultation if guidance/assistance is needed, for example, when history or physical indicates concerns for sexual abuse, physical abuse, or failure to thrive. Evaluation of suspected/alleged physical or sexual abuse should follow established protocols. Formal hearing, vision and TB surveillance skin testing in children over 1 year of age is not required with the initial 3-Day Medical Exam but may be done at the medical professional's discretion. Report new disclosures or findings of child abuse or neglect to CPS caseworker and the CPS hotline (1-800-252-5400).
Discharge	Treatment	A provider may not administer a vaccination, other than an emergency tetanus vaccination, during the initial 3-Day Medical Exam unless the medical provider has obtained the consent of the parent or the court has named DFPS managing conservator.	Ensure caregiver and child are aware that traumatic stress, family separation, and living in foster care may impact physical and emotional health, as well as management of special health care needs. Provide assistance as needed. If child is a newborn, consider completing Texas Health Steps 3-day newborn visit. Report new disclosures or findings of child abuse or neglect to CPS caseworker and the CPS hotline (1-800-252-5400).
	Follow-up expectations	Provide written communication of follow-up expectations based on medical necessity. Provide written communication of medically necessary equipment or referrals; particularly important if exam is conducted outside of medical home setting.	If examiner is a Texas Health Steps provider, schedule follow-up and Texas Health Steps 30-day visit. Contact Superior STAR Health for assistance such as finding in-network providers, securing needed medical supplies or filling prescriptions (1-866-912-6283).
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