

Preventive Services for Children and Women

Preventive services are offered to help avoid sickness, disease, and even death. There are many preventive services that Trillium Medicaid covers for all age groups. One of those areas is getting children up to date on their immunizations (shots). This is very important because the viruses and bacteria that cause diseases and death still exist. They can infect people who have not had their shots. Children should have all their shots before they start school. You can find out if your child is up to date by calling their doctor.

Developmental screening for children less than 30 months is also very important. 17% of children in the United States have a developmental delay or behavioral problem. Your child's doctor should have you fill out a set of questions at their 9, 18, and 24 month well child visits. Developmental screening helps your doctor identify children who need developmental or behavioral help at an earlier age so they can get treatment sooner. Children who get treatment are more likely to graduate high school and keep a job as an adult. They are less likely to commit crimes than those who don't get treatment.

Women's health is another area Trillium Medicaid is working to improve. Mammograms and Pap smears are very important for finding cancer early. Mammograms help screen for breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cause of death in women between the ages of 45 and 55. Women over the age of 40 should have a mammogram every year. If you are at high risk you may need to have them earlier or more often, depending on your doctor's recommendation.

Pap smears should start within 3 years of sexual activity or age 21, whichever comes first. Pap smears may not be needed for women who have had a total hysterectomy or are over 65. There are many risk factors for abnormal pap smears, including HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) and smoking. Smoking is strongly linked to cervical cancer. Other risk factors that might cause abnormal pap testing are multiple sex partners and becoming sexually active at a young age.