



<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	<b>Initial Evaluation of Children’s Health</b>		
 	<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY</b>		
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Date Approved:</b>	<b>Original Effective Date:</b>	<b>Last Revision:</b>
Robert L. Matthews - Director	January 19, 2023	May 17, 2011	December 9, 2022

<b>I. AUTHORITY</b>	The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA or Agency) adopts this policy to be consistent with the Agency’s mission and applicable federal and District of Columbia laws and regulations, including 45 CFR § 1340.14; provisions of Title 4, Title 7 and Title 16 of the DC Official Code; 22 DCMR Chapter B6; and 29 DCMR Chapters 60, 62, and 63.
<b>II. APPLICABILITY</b>	All Agency employees, contracted personnel, contracted agency personnel and resource providers.
<b>III. RATIONALE</b>	When children are separated from their family and home and placed in foster care, CFSA is responsible for ensuring and promoting their physical, emotional, developmental, and educational well-being. Screening and assessing their physical, dental, mental and behavioral health needs shortly after separation supports appropriate, timely service referrals.
<b>IV. POLICY</b>	<p>The term “child” refers to anyone under 21 years old. The term “social worker” refers to the social worker from any administration assigned to the child. The term “resource provider” refers to the child’s resource parent or representative from the congregate care facility where the child is placed.</p> <p>CFSA ensures that health care screenings and physical, dental, mental, behavioral, and developmental assessments occur within prescribed timeframes for children who enter foster care. When a child is separated from their home, or changes placements, then an initial medical/pre-placement screening shall occur at CFSA’s Healthy Horizons Assessment Center (HHAC) immediately before the child’s new placement occurs, with a few exceptions outlined in this policy. Screenings identify potential health conditions requiring further assessment.</p> <p>A comprehensive health assessment will be performed within 30 days upon an initial placement to understand a child’s physical, dental, mental, and behavioral health needs for the purpose of diagnosis, appropriate service referral, and treatment planning. Detailed procedures associated with this policy are outlined in the <a href="#">Initial Evaluation of Children’s Health Business Process</a>.</p> <p>CFSA shall ensure that a child’s medical records and health information are confidential. Information may only be disclosed or released in accordance with federal and District privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations (see <i>CFSA’s policies on <a href="#">Confidentiality</a> and <a href="#">Client Records Management</a></i>). All health care planning shall be closely coordinated with the child’s resource provider.</p>

<p><b>V. CONTENTS</b></p>	<p><b>A.</b> Pre-Placement Screenings  <b>B.</b> Information Gathering Prior to a Comprehensive Medical Evaluation  <b>C.</b> Comprehensive Medical Evaluation  <b>D.</b> Initial Dental Examination  <b>E.</b> Initial Mental Health/Behavioral Health Screening  <b>F.</b> Initial Developmental Screening and Assessment  <b>G.</b> Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening  <b>H.</b> Substance Use Screening</p>
<p><b>VII. GUIDELINES</b></p>	<p><b>Section A: Pre-Placement Screening</b></p> <p>1. CFSA shall ensure that an initial medical screening occurs prior to placement whenever a child experiences a separation from the home of origin or a foster home placement change.</p> <p><i>Note: Pre-placement screenings are not needed if the placement change involves a discharge from a hospital.</i></p> <p>2. The pre-placement screening shall be used to identify signs of abuse or neglect, signs of infection or communicable diseases (e.g., chicken-pox, scabies, and ringworm), hygiene or nutritional problems, as well as acute or chronic illnesses (e.g., asthma, diabetes, seizure disorder) and developmental or mental health concerns.</p> <p>3. CFSA shall provide the resource provider with the child’s Medicaid number within 5 days of placement.</p>
	<p><b>Section B: Information Gathering Prior to a Comprehensive Medical Evaluation</b></p> <p>When a child first enters foster care, the social worker shall collaborate with CFSA’s Health Services Administration (HSA) to obtain the child’s medical, dental, behavioral, and medication information.</p> <p><i>Note: A parental consent for the release of medical information and records, while desirable, is not required by the social worker or HSA at the time of removal. (See policy on <a href="#">Medical Consents.</a>)</i></p>
	<p><b>Section C: Comprehensive Medical Evaluation</b></p> <p>1. A comprehensive medical evaluation shall take place at the HHAC within 30 days of the child’s initial entry or re-entry into foster care.</p> <p>2. If the placement on initial entry or re-entry is in a congregate care or residential facility, then a licensed medical practitioner shall conduct a comprehensive medical within 72 hours of the child’s admission, unless provided with a written report of a prior examination conducted no more than 30 calendar days prior to admission.</p>
	<p><b>Section D: Initial Dental Examination</b></p> <p>1. CFSA shall adhere to <a href="#">DC HealthCheck guidelines</a>, which require dental screenings for children as early as 6 months old or after the first tooth erupts, but no later than the child’s first birthday.</p> <p>2. An initial dental examination shall be conducted within 60 days of placement, unless the Agency is provided with a written report of a prior examination conducted within 6 months of foster care entry.</p>

	<p><b>Section E: Initial Mental Health/Behavioral Health Screening</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CFSA shall follow the <a href="#">DC HealthCheck requirement</a> to assess the mental health development of Medicaid-eligible children.</li> <li>2. The mental health screening shall occur at the time of separation and prior to placement.</li> <li>3. Following the mental health screening, the child shall receive a mental health evaluation within 30 days, typically on the same day as the comprehensive medical exam.</li> <li>4. For children who are newly entering foster care and their initial placement is in a residential facility, a preliminary mental health screen by a qualified mental health practitioner shall be conducted at the residential facility.</li> </ol> <p><i><b>Note:</b> CFSA shall ensure that mental health services are made available in a timely fashion as appropriate to the needs of the child.</i></p>
	<p><b>Section F: Initial Developmental Screening and Assessment</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial developmental screenings shall be conducted using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) screening tool (see the <a href="#">Early Intervention Child Development Screening Process</a>).</li> <li>2. All children aged two months to 5 years old shall receive a developmental screening at the HHAC during the 30-day comprehensive medical evaluation.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Section G: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening</b></p> <p>Upon initial entry or re-entry into foster care, the HHAC shall conduct voluntary screening for youth 11 years old and older for the following sexually-transmitted infections (STI): chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis. Screening for any other STI must be conducted by the child’s primary care physician or other medical provider.</p>
	<p><b>Section H: Substance Use Screening</b></p> <p>Upon initial entry or re-entry into foster care, and before a child is moved to a new placement, HHAC shall conduct voluntary substance use screenings for all youth ages 11 and older. HHAC shall administer urine screening kits that screen for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamine, barbiturates, ecstasy, morphine, oxazepam, methadone and PCP.</p>