

Children's Medical Services (CMS)

What is CMS?

Children's Medical Services (CMS) is a statewide program within the Public Health Division, Department of Health. This program provides services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disabling conditions in children all over New Mexico.

Children from birth to 21 with chronic illnesses or medical conditions that require surgical or medical treatment and limit their activity, such as diabetes, arthritis and cleft lip/palate are eligible for the program. Only diagnoses listed in the CMS Medical Appendix are covered. Children/youth must be medically eligible based on a diagnosis.

Who is Eligible?

- Residents of New Mexico
- Children under the age of 21 years
- Those who have a chronic illness or disability covered by the CMS Program
- For certain services, those who are within financial guidelines

What Services are Available?

CMS offers medical services through multidisciplinary pediatric specialty clinics, private providers and public agencies. Diagnostic medical services, information and referral, case management and pre-school developmental evaluations are also available, regardless of income.

Medical Management

These services include payment for diagnostic services, hospitalizations, physician's services, and some therapies. There is a financial eligibility requirement for these services except for diagnostic services and the Adult Cystic Fibrosis program. To learn about financial eligibility, call your local CMS office.

Multidisciplinary Pediatric Specialty Clinics

CMS sponsors community-based asthma, cleft palate, genetic, metabolic, nephrology, neurology, and endocrinology clinics in NE Region. There are no financial requirements for these services, however insurers of clients not financially covered by CMS are billed for clinic services.

Care Coordination

CMS social workers coordinate health, medical, and other community resources in order to develop and meet child and family goals. Families participate as partners in decision-making regarding their children's medical care and other services.

Talking with a CMS social worker can help families to understand not only their child's disability, but how to cope with the medical and educational services that their child needs. Services provided by social workers are funded by Title V Maternal and Child Health Funding matched by state general funds.

Transition Planning for Youth with Special Health Care needs:

NE Region CMS social workers (and statewide CMS staff) have been focusing on the development of transition goals for youth (adolescent) with Special Health Care Needs. Social workers have begun work supporting skill-building opportunities for youth with special health care needs. CMS social workers are involved in helping teens learn to act as decision-makers in their own health care, educational training, transportation options, interpersonal relationships and inclusion in the community. CMS social Workers also meet with parents in planning (with their teen) how to manage his/her own health care, start transition planning with school personnel, explore health care financing and collaboration with DVR and other agencies.

Newborn Genetic Screening and Follow-up & Newborn Hearing Screening and Follow-up:

Local CMS staff collaborate with the screening program to provide families with education, follow-up and care coordination (including access to CMS outreach clinics).

The following scenarios would warrant a referral to the Children's Medical Services Program for asthma care coordination (any other chronic medical condition could be substituted for "Asthma"):

- *Child has no medical home (ie. no consistent primary care provider).*
- *Child has no insurance and/or resources to pay for medication.*
- *Child does not get to medical appointments for asthma (or other chronic medical condition) management. (However, a referral to CYFD is not warranted.)*
- *Child and/or family does not have or provide to the school the appropriate asthma (other) medications and equipment for asthma (other) management.*
- *Child and/or family members need more education on proper use of asthma (other) medication.*