

# **Free Pediatric Diapers, pull-ups, wipes and gloves**

Did you know that Medicaid can cover incontinence supplies for children if they are deemed medically necessary? Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is part of the pediatric health provision of Medicaid. EPSDT ensures that children under the age of 21, who are enrolled in Medicaid programs, receive age-appropriate screening and preventative services to discover and treat conditions as early as possible.

## **Criteria for Medicaid Coverage of Pediatric Incontinence Supplies (check with Medicaid to confirm it hasn't changed):**

- An underlying medical condition or diagnosis that causes incontinence.
- A signed medical necessity letter or prescription from the child's doctor or healthcare provider less than 12 months old.

## **Health Conditions That May Cause Incontinence in Children**

If your child is over the age of 3 or 4 and still experiencing incontinence, they may have a medical condition that is contributing to their loss of bladder/bowel control. There are many conditions that can contribute to incontinence. The following list is not a comprehensive list so if your child is having issues with bladder or bowel control, contact your healthcare provider to see if it may be related to an underlying medical condition.

- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**

Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, is a condition that is characterized by an inability to control impulses and pay attention. Individuals with ADHD may be restless and extremely active. The inability to concentrate may contribute to the rate of urinary incontinence among children with ADHD. They often experience bladder leakage and may wet the bed because they have a lower rate of compliance when it comes to toilet training and self-managing their symptoms. They also may not notice the urge to urinate when it occurs.

- **Autism**

Autism is a developmental condition that impairs the ability to communicate and socially interact with others. In children with autism, urinary incontinence may present itself in a variety of ways ranging from an inability to control the bladder to sensing a sudden urge to void but not making it to the restroom in time.

- **Cerebral Palsy**

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of movement disorders that appear in early childhood. Symptoms can include muscle weakness, poor coordination, and loss of sensation. Cerebral palsy symptoms contribute to incontinence in a variety of ways, including bladder spasms, enuresis (nighttime incontinence), the inability to recognize a full bladder, frequent urination, and bladder leakage.

- **Crohn's Disease**

Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The inflammation of the digestive tract with Crohn's disease can lead to severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, fatigue, and more. In children and adults, Crohn's disease can result in inflammation of the rectum which can make it difficult to hold liquid stool, causing bowel incontinence.

- **Developmental Delays**

Conditions, such as Down syndrome, that are linked to cognitive delays may impact a child's ability to potty train or control bowel movements. The child's doctor or healthcare provider can determine if incontinence is caused by a physical condition. Signs of incontinence in children with developmental delays may include failure to make it to the restroom in time, the inability to recognize (or communicate) the need to void, difficulty fully emptying the bladder, accidents at night, and bladder or bowel leakage.

- **Hirschsprung's Disease**

Hirschsprung's disease makes it difficult for the large intestine to pass stool. As a result, stool collects in the intestine and the colon expands. Babies with Hirschsprung's disease may begin to vomit, become fatigued, develop a swollen stomach, become gassy, or experience diarrhea shortly after birth.

- **Neurogenic Bladder**

Neurogenic bladder is caused by neurological damage and contributes to flaccid and spastic bladder dysfunction. It can contribute to the inability to fully empty the bladder, frequent urination, sudden urges to urinate, lack of sensation for the need to urinate, and uncontrolled loss of urine.

- **Nocturnal Enuresis**

Nocturnal enuresis, also referred to as nighttime incontinence or bedwetting, is characterized by an involuntary loss of urine while sleeping. Various factors that may affect bedwetting are sleep apnea, hormone imbalances, and the inability to recognize when the bladder is full.

- **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is difficulty recovering after witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event(s). While PTSD is not known to directly cause incontinence, the conditions seem to be correlated. Children who suffer from PTSD may need to use incontinence products until they can work through their emotional and physical symptoms.

- **Spina Bifida**

Spina Bifida is a condition that results in neural tube defects. As a result, a child with spina bifida could experience involuntary losses of urine, spasms that result in urine leakage, or the inability to feel when the bladder is full.