

# NWF Health Network Policy & Procedure

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<b>Series:</b>	300: Medical and Behavioral Health	
<b>Policy Name:</b>	Children's Ongoing Health Care, Medical Treatment	
<b>Policy Number:</b>	308	
<b>Origination Date:</b>	03/09/2009	<b>Revised:</b> Board Meeting of 09/07/2023
<b>Regulation:</b>	39.407, F.S. 65C-28.003, F.A.C.	

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## Policy

It is the policy of NWF Health Network (NWFHN), to mandate all contracted Case Management Organizations (CMOs) assure children in out-of-home care receive proper medical care. In addition, special care is to be provided for in-home cases involving medical neglect.

## Procedure

- A. The Dependency Case Manager (DCM) will coordinate with the caregiver and Nurse Care Coordinator (NCC) to select a health care provider who accepts Medicaid reimbursement and is an enrolled Medicaid provider as the child's medical home for the provision of ongoing health care. Special consideration shall be given to providers who are members of the Sunshine State Health Plan network. If the child has private insurance, the DCM and caregiver shall cooperate with the insurance company to identify medical service providers.
  1. When a child placed in out-of-home care receives medical treatment that is not covered by Medicaid, the parent shall remain financially responsible for the service irrespective of the parent's consent to such treatment.
  2. A parent's inability or failure to pay for a non-Medicaid covered service shall not delay the receipt of the service.
- B. If a child in out-of-home care has an illness or injury that requires medical attention, the caregiver will take the child to a health care provider for the assessment and treatment, with the assistance of the DCM as necessary.
  1. At the time of removal, the parent will sign a consent form to cover standard treatment and/or medication.
  2. If this consent form is not obtained at the time of removal, the need for this form will be addressed at the Shelter Hearing and a Court Order giving authority for such will be granted.
  3. After the child is adjudicated dependent, the court may delegate authority to consent to ordinary medical care and treatment to the out-of-home caregiver.

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4. The Court Order will specify individuals who are authorized to consent to ordinary treatment for the child.
- C. When other than ordinary medical care is required, the express and informed consent of the child's parent will be sought.
1. Of consent cannot be gained, the DCM in conjunction with the NCC will obtain an affidavit of treatment from the prescribing physician. The DCM will contact the Children's Legal Services (CLS) attorney in order to obtain a Court Order authorizing treatment prior to the treatment being rendered.
  2. If the parent's rights have been terminated and the child is in the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a Court Order is still needed prior to rendering extraordinary medical treatment.
  3. If the parent's rights have been terminated and the child is placed in relative or non-relative care, the caregiver may consent to extraordinary care if the Court Order grants such.
  4. If treatment occurs in an emergency, the DCM shall be responsible for notifying the parents and Guardian ad Litem regarding the treatment as soon as possible; this notification shall be documented in the case file. The case file shall also contain a written statement from the attending physical that the situation was an emergency and the care was needed to ensure the child's health or physical well-being.
- D. The NCC shall be utilized to assist the DCMs in the coordination of Child Health, Dental, and Vision Check-Ups.
1. Copies of the results of the checks for those children placed in out-of-home care or In-Home Judicial cases when child welfare involvement is the result of medical neglect will be placed into the case record and in the electronic file cabinet within FSFN.
  2. The Florida Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Coverage and Limitations Handbook will be adhered to when scheduling check-ups.
- E. The NCC shall schedule EPDST, request records for the child upon initial shelter up to the EPSDT. The DCM shall be responsible for obtaining ongoing medical, dental, and vision records. The NCC shall be utilized to assist in locating records and coordinating immunizations for those children placed in out-of-home care.
- F. If coordination of medical care is required due to the geographic location of the placement, the NCC and the child's assigned MMA may be utilized for coordination of care.
- G. The NCC and/or NWFHN Well-Being Specialist will ensure that the health care needs of youth in out-of-home care are clearly communicated to Community Based Care Integrated Health (CBCIH) and Sunshine Health. The NCC will utilize the DCM to schedule needed appointments for youth upon notification from Sunshine Health via CBCIH.

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- H. The DCM shall be responsible for notifying the parents, court-ordered caregivers and Guardians ad Litem of all medical care and issues during the life of the case. Should the parents' rights be terminated, the parent is no longer privy to the medical information of the child.
  
- I. All medical documentation for the child shall be placed in the case file along with a copy in the child's Child Resource Record. The DCM shall be responsible for ensuring all parties privy to the child's medical information abide by HIPAA.