

Special Health Services (SHS)

Revised January 2022



Mission

The Division of Special Health Services (SHS) has a mission to promote a system of care and services that improves the health and well-being of individuals with special health care needs and their families.

Cross-cutting implementation strategies at the heart of all SHS programs include:

- Care coordination
- Collaboration
- Data-informed decisions
- Information and education

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number B04MC40153, Maternal and Child Health Services. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) System Enhancement Program

Improves health outcomes of CSHCN by advancing a quality, comprehensive system of care that promotes the health development and well-being of children and their families.

Six core outcomes that describe the system of services for CSHCN include:

- Family professional partnership
- Medical home
- Adequate health insurance
- Early and continuous screening and surveillance
- Easy-to-use services and supports
- Transition to adult health care

SHS provides information on the following topics free of charge:

- Medical conditions
- Health and related services
- Health care coverage
- Health care providers
- Well-child health care
- Child development
- Financial assistance
- Youth transition to adult health care
- Family/parent-to-parent support



Coordinated Services Program

Provides services and resources that support coordinated management of specific chronic health conditions.

Services within this program include:

- **Metabolic Food** - Provides medical food and low-protein modified food products to individuals with Phenylketonuria (PKU) and Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD). Age requirements apply
- **Multidisciplinary Clinics** - Families are able to see many different providers and health care professionals in one place at a time (asthma, cleft lip and palate, autism, etc.) Contact SHS for a complete listing.
- **School Nurse Consultation** - Supports school nursing initiatives and promotes the connection between health and academic achievement by ensuring nursing care is safely and effectively delivered to schools, particularly in rural communities.



Financial Coverage Program

Helps families pay for medical services for eligible children, youth and young adults who require specialty care to diagnose and treat their chronic health conditions.

- **Diagnostic Services** - Provides coverage for services that promote early diagnoses of SHS eligible medical conditions.
- **Treatment Services** - Provides coverage for services to children with chronic health conditions who meet medical and financial eligibility criteria.
- **Russell Silver Syndrome** - Provides coverage for growth hormone treatment and medical food.

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Newborn Screening and Follow-up Program

The goal of this program is to identify conditions at an early age when treatment and intervention can prevent health problems, support early development and save lives.

Newborn screening consists of three simple tests:

- **Blood Spot** - Newborns are screened for nearly 50 genetic and metabolic conditions.
- **Hearing Screening** - Newborns are screened for hearing loss.
- **Pulse Oximetry Screening** - Measures the amount of oxygen in a newborn's blood and can identify serious heart problems. This is also known as Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) screening.

For infants with a condition identified through newborn screening, follow-up is available to ensure the child receives services that support their health, growth, development and overall function.

