

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh)

Definition of Children with Special Health Care Needs

- Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are children who have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition that requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Core BCMH programs

- Treatment Program
- Diagnostic Program
- Service Coordination Program

Public Health Nurse Services

- Provided by local health departments
- Identification of CSHCN and referral to appropriate providers/agencies
- Service coordination-link to community resources
- Home visits
- Child/family/community assessments
- Advocacy for children and families
- Coordination with other agencies and systems that serve CSHCN, e.g. schools, MRDD, EI, JFS

Diagnostic Program-Purpose

- To rule-out a handicapping condition
- To diagnose a handicapping condition
- To establish a plan of treatment
- Authorization period: 3 months

Diagnostic Program - Services

- Outpatient and physician services (automatically authorized)
 - Lab tests, x-rays, PT, OT, ST evaluations, special tests, consults and office visits to BCMH-approved physicians
- Public Health Nurse Services
- Major services (must be requested)
 - Up to 5 days inpatient hospitalization, biopsies, anesthesia, psych/neuropsych evaluations

Diagnostic Program Eligibility

- Under age 21
- Permanent resident of Ohio
- Under the care of a BCMH-approved physician
- Have a possible medical handicap
- No Financial eligibility requirement

Treatment Program Purpose

- To provide on-going services for medically and financially eligible children according to recognized standards of practice
- Authorization period: 1 year
- Cases can be renewed yearly to age 21 with continued medical and financial eligibility

Treatment Program Eligibility

- Under age 21
- Permanent resident of Ohio
- Have an eligible medically handicapping condition
- Meet financial eligibility criteria

Treatment Program Services

- Service Packages for 27 diagnoses and diagnostic categories plus a "generic" Service Package for other conditions
- Service Packages contain basic services as well as major services appropriate and most usually authorized for that diagnosis
- Examples of major services: surgery, anesthesia, prescription medications, medical equipment/supplies, therapies, special formula

Treatment Program: Examples of Eligible Conditions

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Birth defects | Cleft lip/palate |
| Cerebral palsy | Hemophilia |
| Spina bifida | Sickle cell disease |
| Congenital heart defects | HIV/AIDS |
| Hearing loss | Scoliosis |
| Cystic fibrosis | Epilepsy |
| Diabetes | Juvenile arthritis |
| Severe vision disorders | Chronic pulmonary disease |
| | Cancer |

The Public Health Nurse who coordinates the BCMH program in Allen County is located at the Allen County Health Department.
219 E Market Street, Lima, OH 45801
Call 419-228-4457 for more information