

# Promoting Physical Health

### Initial Health Information Gathering

- ▶ Ensure detailed health histories are obtained from the birth parents and other caregivers at placement.
- ▶ Ensure medical information is obtained when a newborn enters care from the hospital.
- ▶ Ensure the child receives an initial health screen within 24 hours of entering care.
- ▶ Ask the child welfare agency to report health screen results at the initial hearing and ensure the child welfare agency is keeping all of a child's medical records on file.
- ▶ Request additional health assessments to address missing information.

### Comprehensive Physical Assessment

- ▶ Require a comprehensive health assessment within 30 days of placement.
- ▶ Ensure necessary health care records and consents are available.
- ▶ Ensure the comprehensive assessment includes developmental and mental health screens by a qualified provider.
- ▶ Request assessment results and ensure services are in place.

### Immunizations

- ▶ Ensure the child has been properly immunized.
  - ▶ Ask about immunization at the first hearing.
  - ▶ Ensure immunizations are complete and up-to-date for the child's age.
  - ▶ Require catchup immunizations if necessary.

### Routine Medical Screening

- ▶ Ensure the child has received all appropriate screenings.

## Coordinated Medical Care

- ▶ Require a medical home.
- ▶ Address barriers to using a medical home.
  - ▶ Make placement decisions with continuity of health care in mind.
  - ▶ Ensure the initial placement for a child in care is carefully selected and work to maintain the integrity of this placement.
  - ▶ If a change is needed, try to keep the child in the same geographic area and make sure caseworkers and foster parents understand the importance of the medical home.
- ▶ Ask if the child has a health passport.

## Oral Health

- ▶ Ensure the child receives appropriate dental services.
- ▶ Help each child access a dental home.
- ▶ Remove barriers to dental care.

## Barriers to Health Care Access

- ▶ Find out if the child has health insurance.
- ▶ Identify other barriers to the child's access to medical services.

