

Table 1: Evidence Supporting the Importance of Availability of Care for Children Needing Specialty Care

Type of evidence	Key findings	Level of evidence (USPSTF ranking*)	Citation(s)
Clinical Guideline	<p>The EPSDT benefit for Medicaid-enrolled children provides that if the screening exam warrants it, any necessary referral must be made without delay.</p> <p>Further, states are required to provide any additional health care services that are coverable under the Federal Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary ... regardless of whether the service is covered in a state's Medicaid plan.</p>	III	<p>Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment. Medicaid.gov. http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Benefits/Early-and-Periodic-Screening-Diagnostic-and-Treatment.html. Updated June 17, 2014. Accessed July 9, 2014.</p>
Expert Opinion	<p>Inadequate or untimely fulfillment of referral appointments for the child runs the risk of violating federal Medicaid law, which includes an "equal access provision." The law also permits sanctions to be imposed when adequate access to providers is lacking.</p>	III	<p>Cohen RK, Dube N. OLR Research Report. Medicaid—Access to Providers. http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/rpt/2008-R-0601.htm. October 30, 2008. Accessed July 9, 2014.</p>
Descriptive Study	<p>More than three times as many physicians have reported difficulty in referring children in Medicaid and CHIP to specialty care compared with privately insured children <i>regardless of physician type and geographic location</i>.</p>	III	<p>United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). MEDICAID AND CHIP: Most Physicians Serve Covered Children but Have Difficulty Referring Them for Specialty Care, GAO.gov. http://www.gao.gov/assets/330/320559.pdf. June, 2011. Accessed July 9, 2014.</p>
Case Reports	<p>Parent and family dissatisfaction with timely access to specialty care once a referral has been received has the potential to contribute to the trend toward increased litigation against the Medicaid system by recipient families.</p>	III	<p>Perkins J. National Health Law Program. Fact Sheet: Medicaid EPSDT Litigation. http://www.acmhai.org/pdf/Jane_Perkins_-_EPSDT_Litigation.pdf. October, 2009. Accessed July 9, 2014.</p>

Note: USPSTF criteria for assessing evidence at the individual study level are as follows: I) Properly powered and conducted randomized controlled trial (RCT); well-conducted systematic review or meta-analysis of homogeneous RCTs. II) Well-designed cohort or case-control analytic study. III) Opinions of respected authorities, based on clinical experience; descriptive studies or case reports; reports of expert committees.