



You can help make a difference in your health and well-being.
Preventive care is vital to a healthy lifestyle.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Many health conditions can be prevented or detected early by making healthy lifestyle choices such as eating nutritional foods, getting appropriate exercise and visiting your doctor for routine physical care.

As a general rule of thumb, being in good health means lower health care costs. So, use these guidelines to help maintain a healthy lifestyle and potentially save money on your health care. Talk with your primary care provider about your specific health concerns and follow your doctors’ advice.



Use these guidelines to help maintain a healthy lifestyle

Screening: Children, birth to 18 years

Ask your child's doctor about the frequency of well-child visits based on your child's age. Generally, babies need to be seen at two-to three-month intervals; older children should be seen annually.

Age	Screening	Frequency
Newborn	Genetic metabolic screening (including PKU, sickle cell, blood disorders, hypothyroidism)	Once
Newborn	Hearing assessment	Once
Birth – 2 years	Head circumference	At each well-child visit
6 – 12 months	Iron deficiency anemia	Once for prevention
Birth – 6 years	Height/length and weight	At each well-child visit
1, 2 and 3 years	Lead level screening	Frequency dependent on risk
Younger than 5 years	Vision screening	Once

Counseling: Children, birth to 18 years

As your child grows, talk with your child's doctor about:

- Nutrition: obesity and eating disorders
- Physical activity and exercise
- Safety, inside and outside the home:
 - Car seats - Poison prevention
 - Seat belts - Injury prevention
- Child abuse
- Sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases – Adolescents
- Birth control – Adolescents
- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use/abuse
- Dental and oral health
- Skin cancer: minimizing exposure to ultraviolet radiation



Immunizations: Children, birth to 2 years

The following immunizations are recommended for children in the first two years of life. Vaccine schedules may differ based on your child's age and health when starting a series of injections. Ask your doctor how you should space your child's appointments to get the best results from these vaccines to prevent serious communicable diseases.

Immunization	Scheduling information
Hepatitis B (HepB)	3 – 4 doses before child's 2nd birthday; the first is usually at birth
Rotavirus (Rota)	2 doses before 6 months of age
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough) (DTaP)	4 doses before child's 2nd birthday
Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)	3 – 4 doses before child's 2nd birthday
Pneumococcal (PCV)	4 doses before child's 2nd birthday
Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV)	3 – 4 doses before child's 2nd birthday
Influenza (Flu)	2 doses first flu season; annually after. Children over 2 years old can use nasal spray vaccine
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	Once 12 – 18 months
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Once 12 – 18 months
Hepatitis A (HepA)	2 doses after 12 months of age; high risk children only

Immunizations: Children, 2 years to 18 years

The following immunizations are recommended for children from 2 to 18 years old. Children who have not received their vaccines earlier in life can receive a "catch-up" series. Vaccine schedules may differ based on your child's age and health when starting a series of injections. Ask your doctor how you should space your child's appointments to get the best results from these vaccines to prevent serious communicable diseases.

Immunization	Scheduling information
Hepatitis B (HepB)	HepB catch up series
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (whooping cough) (DTaP)	One at 4 – 6 years old; one at 11 – 12 years old; one every 10 years thereafter
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Quadrivalent vaccine 3-dose series, 9 – 18 years old
Pneumococcal (PCV)	PCV catch-up series
Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV)	IPV catch-up series
Influenza (Flu)	Annually; children over 2 years of age can receive nasal spray vaccine
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	Once at 4 – 6 years old or catch-up
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Once at 4 – 6 years old or catch-up
Hepatitis A (HepA)	Catch-up series
Meningococcal	2 – 6 years old; high risk children only; one 11 – 12 years old; catch-up

Preventive Guidelines: Adults, 18 years and older

The following preventive services are recommended on an annual basis or during the age ranges noted. Ask your physician about your individual needs for screening for early detection of serious illness.

Screening Services	Frequency/Age Range
History, physical examination and assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood pressure Height and weight (BMI) Depression screening Tobacco, alcohol or drug abuse screening Sexual wellness and disease screening 	At each preventive visit
Diabetes Screening	At each preventive visit
Cholesterol Screening	Every 5 years beginning at age 35
Colorectal Cancer	50 years of age and over; annually with fecal occult blood test; every 5 - 10 years with colonoscopy
Cervical Cancer Screening (Pap smear)	Women annually at age 18 or age of sexual activity and every 1 – 3 years thereafter
Breast Cancer Screening (Mammogram)	Women age 40 and older; every 1 – 2 years thereafter
Osteoporosis Screening	Age 65 and older; once every 2 years thereafter
Pregnancy-related Screenings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacteria in the urine Folic acid supplementation Hepatitis B screening Rh compatibility Iron deficiency screening 	Ask your doctor about additional services recommended during your pregnancy
Risk of Falling Assessment	Age 65 and older
Hepatitis C Virus Infection, Screening	Once for adults born between 1945 and 1965

Counseling: Adults, 18 years and older

Talk with your doctor about a referral to a specialist if you have issues with:

- Physical activity and exercise
- Calcium intake
- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use/abuse
- Nutrition: obesity and eating disorders
- Safety: sun exposure, seat belt use, fall and injury prevention
- Genetic disorders
- Interpersonal and domestic violence
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Risk of falling, mobility problems (age 65 and older)

Immunizations: Adults, 18 years and older

Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td/Tdap)	Every 10 years
Pneumococcal (Pneumonia)	One dose
Influenza (Flu)	Annually
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	3-dose series before age 25
Zoster (Shingles)	One dose, age 50 or over
Meningococcal	Certain high-risk groups based on medical, occupational, lifestyle or other indications
Hepatitis B or Hepatitis A	Persons at risk or catch-up series
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Catch-up if needed

Sources: www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov, website of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, accessed 8/31/13.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm, website of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed 11/4/10.

These guidelines are for informational purposes only. BCBSNE does not diagnose conditions or recommend specific treatment. The information provided in this document is not a substitute for your physician's care. The Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (PPACA) went into effect for plan/policy years on and after September 23, 2010. Preventive services covered under this act must be submitted with the appropriate diagnosis and procedure code in order to be paid at the 100% benefit level. Preventive services do not generally include services intended to treat an existing illness, injury, or condition. Benefits will be determined based on how the provider submits the bill. If during your preventive services visit you receive services to treat an existing illness, injury or condition, you may be required to pay a copay, deductible and/or coinsurance for those covered services. Individual and Group health plans vary in the preventive benefits covered. Refer to your Individual Contract and/or Endorsement, Master Group Contract, Certificate of Coverage or Summary Plan Description for details on how your preventive services benefits are covered.