Referral to Health Services

Purpose
To ensure participants are provided information about and referred to health services when appropriate.

Authority
7 CFR Part 246.7

Definitions
Health services - any routine pediatric and obstetric care (such as well-child checkups, prenatal or postpartum examinations, specialty care, dentistry, and family planning).

Medical home - a healthcare professional or healthcare clinic that provides comprehensive medical care. Comprehensive care includes care of patients with illnesses and injuries, well-child exams, immunizations, and referrals for specialty care.

Follow-up - efforts the local agency (LA) makes to contact the participant and determine the outcome (disposition) of the referral.

Policy
LAs shall refer participants to health services when appropriate. A list of local resources shall be made available for distribution to all applicants and/or participants and their parents or caregivers.
Procedure

I. LAs shall maintain an up-to-date list of local health services including resources for drug and other harmful substance abuse counseling and treatment.

II. At each certification, LAs shall determine whether or not an applicant has a medical home. The medical home shall be documented on the Participant Page of the MIS.

III. Applicants and/or participants who do not have a medical home shall be:
   A. given an up-to-date, written list of health services within the community; and
   B. counseled about the importance of regular health care.

IV. Applicants and/or participants who are identified as needing drug and other harmful substance abuse services shall be given an up-to-date, written list of drug and harmful substance abuse counseling and treatment services.