

	<h2>Developmental Screening Guideline</h2>	
<b>Guideline #</b> 10519	<b>Categories</b> Administration / Non-Clinical →TCHP Utilization Management	<b>This Guideline Applies To:</b> Texas Children's Health Plan
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**GUIDELINE STATEMENT:** Developmental screening is a covered benefit by Texas Children's Health Plan (TCHP) ages birth through 6 years of age.

**DEFINITIONS:** Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) is a validated developmental screening tool for ages 1 month to 66 months

Parents' Evaluation of Development Status (PEDS) is a validated developmental screening tool for ages birth to 8 years

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) is a validated developmental screening tool for ages 16 months to 30 months.

## GUIDELINE

1. Developmental screening with the use of a validated screening tool is a benefit for members birth through age 6 years of age (procedure code 96110/96110 U6).
2. As THSteps medical services, developmental screening (procedure code 96110) and autism screening (procedure code 96110 with modifier U6) are limited to once per day, per client, by the same provider or provider group. This service will be denied unless a checkup, exception-to-periodicity checkup, or follow-up visit was reimbursed for the same date of service by the same provider.
3. Developmental screening is limited to once per rolling year by any provider, outside of a Texas Health Steps medical checkup when medically necessary.
  - 2.1 This screening should only be completed for a diagnosis of suspected developmental delay or to evaluate a change in developmental status outside of a Texas Health Steps medical checkup.
  - 2.2 If a provider administers a standardized and validated developmental screening at additional checkups other than those listed in the Required Screening Ages and Recommended Tools table, the rationale for the additional screening, which may be due to provider or parental concerns should be documented
4. Autism screening is required at 18 months of age and again at 24 months of age.

- 4.1 If not completed at 24 months of age it should be completed at 30 months of age.
- 4.2 A 3<sup>rd</sup> screening may be performed as a follow up to a previous abnormal screening by 30 months of age

5. Standardized developmental screening is required at the ages listed in the table below.

5.1 Providers must use one of the validated, standardized tools listed below when performing a developmental or autism screening.

5.2 A standardized screen is not required at other checkups up to and including the 6-year checkup; however, developmental surveillance is required at these checkups and includes a review of milestones (gross and fine motor skills, speech-language development, self-help/care skills, social, emotional, and cognitive development) and mental health and is not considered a separate service.

6. Texas Health Steps requires the following standardized developmental screening tools at these ages:

Required Screening Ages and Recommended Tools		
9 months	Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or Parents' Evaluation of Development Status (PEDS)	N/A
18 months	ASQ or PEDS	Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) or M-CHAT Revised with Follow-Up (M-CHAT R/F)
24 months	ASQ or PEDS	M-CHAT or M-CHAT R/F
3 years	ASQ, Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) or PEDS	N/A
4 years	ASQ, ASQ:SE or PEDS	N/A

7. If a developmental or autism screening that is required in the Required Screening Ages and Recommended Tools table is not completed during a checkup or if the member is being seen for the first time, standardized developmental screening must be completed through 6 years of age.

8. Standardized developmental screening as part of a medical checkup for ages other than required on the periodicity schedule is not covered when completed for the sole purpose of day care, Head Start or school requirements.
9. Developmental screening that is completed without the use of one of the required standardized screening tools is not a separately payable benefit, and the checkup will be considered incomplete.
10. Referral for an in-depth developmental evaluation is determined by the criteria of the specific tool or at the provider's discretion. Referral for in-depth evaluation of development should be provided when parents express concern about their child's development, regardless of scoring on a standardized development screening tool. A medical diagnosis or a confirmed developmental delay is not required for referrals.
11. The ECI program serves clients who are birth through 35 months of age with disabilities or developmental delays. Under federal and state regulations, all health-care professionals are required to refer children to the Texas HHS ECI program as soon as possible, but no longer than 7 days after identifying a disability or a suspected delay in development, even if referred to an appropriate provider for further testing. If the client is 3 years of age or older, referral should be made to the local school district's special education program.
12. Requests for developmental screening outside of the limits established by this procedure will be reviewed by a TCHP Medical Director/Physician Reviewer on an individual basis.

**REFERENCES:****Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Publications:**

Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening Council on Children With Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee and Medical Home Initiatives for Children With Special Needs Project Advisory Committee Pediatrics July 2006, 118 (1) 405-420

Executive Summary: Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder Susan L. Hyman, Susan E. Levy, Scott M. Myers and Council on Children with Disabilities, section on developmental and behavioral pediatrics Pediatrics January 2020, 145

Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup Periodicity Schedule for Infants, Children, and Adolescents [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Family\\_and\\_Community\\_Health/thsteps/pdfdocs/PS\\_large\\_2018.pdf](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Family_and_Community_Health/thsteps/pdfdocs/PS_large_2018.pdf)

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual — January 2021; Children's Services Handbook [http://www.tmhp.com/manuals\\_pdf/tmppm/tmppm\\_living\\_manual\\_current/2\\_Childrens\\_Services.pdf](http://www.tmhp.com/manuals_pdf/tmppm/tmppm_living_manual_current/2_Childrens_Services.pdf)

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual — January 2021

Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook

[http://www.tmhp.com/Manuals\\_PDF/TMPPM/TMPPM\\_Living\\_Manual\\_Current/2\\_Med\\_Specs\\_and\\_Phys\\_Srvs.pdf](http://www.tmhp.com/Manuals_PDF/TMPPM/TMPPM_Living_Manual_Current/2_Med_Specs_and_Phys_Srvs.pdf)

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