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. 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.

3. Autism screening is required at 18 months of age and again at 24 months of age.
   3.1 If not completed at 24 months of age it should be completed at 30 months of age.
   3.2 A 3rd screening may be performed as a follow up to a previous abnormal screening by 30 months of age.
4. Standardized developmental screening is required at the ages listed in the table below.
   4.1 Providers must use one of the validated, standardized tools listed below when performing a developmental or autism screening.

   4.2 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Standardized Tool</th>
<th>Autism Screening Tool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or Parents' Evaluation of Development Status (PEDS)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>ASQ or PEDS</td>
<td>Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) or M-CHAT Revised with Follow-Up (M-CHAT R/F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>ASQ or PEDS</td>
<td>M-CHAT or M-CHAT R/F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ASQ, Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) or PEDS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ASQ, ASQ:SE or PEDS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. 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.

7. A total of 12 developmental screenings are allowed up to age 6 within a Texas Health Steps Checkup within the following ages:
   8.1 - 2 screenings at ages 0 – 11 months
   8.2 - 3 screenings at ages 12 – 23 months
   8.3 - 2 screenings at ages 12 – 23 months
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. 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.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Publications:

Last Approval date by the Clinic & Administrative Advisory Committee (CAAC): 02/20/20

REFERENCES:

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

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


Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual — January 2020; Children’s Services Handbook