

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

DEFINITIONS:

Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ): A validated developmental screening tool for ages 1 month to 66 months

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

Survey of Well-being of Young Children (SWYC): A validated developmental screening tool for ages 1 month to 66 months

The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT): 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 from birth through 6 years of age.
2. 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.
 - This screening is completed for a diagnosis of suspected developmental delay or to evaluate a change in developmental status outside of a Texas Health Steps medical checkup.
 - 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 should be documented.

4. Autism screening is required at 18 months of age and again at 24 months of age.
 - A screening is completed at 30 months of age if there is a particular developmental concern or if it was not completed at 24 months of age.
 - A 3rd screening at 30 months of age may be performed as a follow up to a previous abnormal screening.
5. Standardized developmental screening is required at the ages listed in the table below.
 - Providers must use one of the validated, standardized tools listed below when performing a developmental or autism screening.
 - A standardized screening 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) Survey of Well-being of Young Children (SWYC)	N/A
18 months	ASQ, PEDS or SWYC	Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) or M-CHAT Revised with Follow-Up (M-CHAT R/F)
24 months	ASQ PEDS SWYC	M-CHAT or M-CHAT R/F
3 years	ASQ, Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) PEDS or SWYC	N/A
4 years	ASQ, ASQ:SE PEDS or SWYC	N/A

7. Standardized developmental or autism screening must be completed for members up to 6 years of age if screening is not completed during a checkup or if the member is being seen for the first time.
8. Standardized developmental screening 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. 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 provider should document the rationale for the additional screening.
11. A total of 11 developmental screenings are allowed up to age 6 with a Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup within the following ages:
 - 2 screenings at ages 0 – 11 months
 - 3 screenings at ages 12 – 23 months
 - 2 screenings at ages 24 – 35 months
 - 1 screening at 3 years of age
 - 1 screening at 4 years of age
 - 1 screening at 5 years of age
 - 1 screening at 6 years of age
12. Referral for an in-depth developmental evaluation is determined by the criteria of the specific tool or at the provider's discretion.
13. 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.
14. The ECI program serves children 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.
15. 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:

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Children’s Services Handbook. Accessed February 5, 2025

<https://www.tmhp.com/sites/default/files/file-library/resources/provider-manuals/tmppm/archives/2025-02-TMPPM.pdf>

Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook. Accessed February 5, 2025

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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

June 2021 Texas Health Steps Medical Checkup Periodicity Schedule for Infants, Children, and Adolescents <http://www.onlineordersff.com/images/pdfs/26027.pdf>

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