Developmental Screening

Description

Developmental screening identifies children who may have developmental delays or who may need a more comprehensive diagnostic assessment.[1,2] Providers can screen children periodically with a brief, standardized tool. After screening, families receive information about any developmental delays identified by screening and information about services available to address developmental delays if their child needs early intervention (EI) services.[3] Pediatric offices or other pediatric settings — such as a child care program or a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office — may offer developmental screening.[4]

Evidence

- One in six children between ages 3 to 17 had a developmental disability, from 2006 to 2008.[5]

- Screening with a validated tool identifies far more children with developmental and social-emotional needs than surveillance alone. The American Academy of Pediatrics considers developmental screening to be integral to well-child care.[2]

- Children who participated in a developmental screening program were more likely to be identified with developmental delays, referred to EI and eligible for EI services sooner. Identifying developmental disabilities early allows children to receive intervention as soon as possible.[6]

Implementation

Developmental screening should be performed routinely during every well-child visit. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends developmental screening at ages 9, 18, and 24 or 30 months, and autism-specific screening at ages 18 and 24 months. When administering a developmental screening tool, address all areas of a child's development, including language, cognitive, adaptive, social-emotional, and gross and fine motor skills. Ideally, the tool should be brief; easy to administer and score; low-cost to pediatricians; and available in various formats, including electronic or paper-and-pencil.[7]

Billing and Reimbursement

96110 — Developmental testing; limited (e.g., Developmental Screening Test II, Early Language Milestone Screen) with interpretation and report[8]

96111 — Developmental testing; extended (includes assessment of motor, language, social, adaptive or cognitive functioning by standardized developmental instruments) with interpretation and report[6]

Resources

Selected Screening Tools

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition (ASQ-3): Ages 4 to 66 months[9,10]

- Battelle Developmental Inventory Screening Tool, Second Edition (BDI-ST): From birth to age 95 months[7]

NYC Health

- Bayley Infant Neurodevelopmental Screener (BINS): Ages 3 to 24 months[8]

- Brigance Screens III: From birth to age 90 months[8]

- Child Development Inventories (CDI): Ages 18 to 72 months[7,8]

- Infant Development Inventory (IDI): From birth to age 18 months[7,8]

- Parents' Evaluations of Developmental Status (PEDS): From birth to age 8 years[7,8]

- Survey of Well-Being of Young Children (SWYC): From birth to age 5 years[8]

New York City Early Intervention Program

- The New York City Health Department's Early Intervention Program (NYC EIP) provider information: Go to nyc.gov/health and search for **early intervention**.

- Clinicians' Guide: The EIP in New York City: Go to nyc.gov/health and search for **early intervention clinicians' guide**.

- NYC EIP referral form: Go to nyc.gov/health and search for **early intervention referral form**.

Tools for Integrating Screening Into Your Practice

- CDC Developmental Monitoring and Screening for Health Professionals: Go to cdc.gov and search for **developmental screening hcp**.

- Child Health and Development Interactive System (CHADIS): Go to chadis.com.

New York City Health Department Parent Education Materials

- Developmental screening poster for clinic waiting room (English and Spanish): Call 311.

- Developmental milestone handouts (by age): Call 311.

- Brochures for families: Call 311.

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4. Pinto-Martin JA, Dunkle M, Earls M, Fliedner D, Landes C. Developmental Stages of Developmental Screening: Steps to Implementation of a Successful Program. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2005; 95(11):1928-1932. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2004.052167.
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6. Guevara JP, Gerdes M, Localio R, Huang Y V, Pinto-Martin J, Minkovitz CS, Hsu D, Kyriakou L, Baglivo S, Kavanagh J, Pati, S. Effectiveness of Developmental Screening in an Urban Setting. *Pediatrics.* 2013; 131 (1):30–37. Retrieved from: http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/131/1/30.full.pdf and http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/1/30.
7. Perrin EC, Sheldrick RC. Development and Implementation of developmental screening tools in primary care. *American Psychology Association.* Retrieved from: http://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/primary-care/screening-tools.aspx.
8. NYS-Office of Mental Health: Appendix 3: Draft Clinic Services Billing Codes and Rules. Retrieved from: https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/clinic_restructur-ing/appendix3.html.
9. NYC-Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 2016. Identifying and Referring Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities to the Early Intervention Program. City Health Information 35(6):47-58.
10. American Academy of Pediatrics: Developmental Screening Tools. Retrieved from: https://brightfutures.aap.org/Bright%20Futures%20Documents/Developmental_Screening_Tools.pdf.