

Billing Guidelines for Developmental and Mental Health Screening and Assessment in Primary Care

Revised March 2021

Table 1: Pediatric Screening/Assessments in Healthy Kids Preventive Health Schedule

	Recommendation from Healthy Kids Preventive Health Schedule	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
Post-partum depression screening	Screening recommended at 1, 2, 4 and 6 month well child checks. Providers may “pre-screen” with PHQ-2 to determine if a longer standardized screening tool is needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) • Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) 	<p>96161: Caregiver-focused health risk assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used. PHQ-2 may not be billed.</p> <p>Billing should occur under the child’s MA number</p>	96161 will be reimbursed up to 4 units total per child through age 12 months. 0 units will be reimbursed age 13 months and older.
Developmental screening	Surveillance recommended at every well child visit; use of standardized screening tool required for all children at 9, 18 and 24 months (and whenever concern).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) • Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) 	96110: Developmental screening may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented	<p>96110 will be reimbursed up to 8 units total per child through age 5 years. 0 units will be reimbursed age 6 years and older.</p> <p>A maximum of 2 units of 96110 will be reimbursed per visit when both a general developmental screen and an autism screen are conducted; OR</p> <p>96110 may be combined with other screening codes when appropriate (ex. 96127) for a maximum of 2 units of screening reimbursed per visit</p>

	Recommendation from Healthy Kids Preventive Health Schedule	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
Autism screening	Surveillance recommended at every well child visit; use of standardized screening tool required for all children at 18 and 24 months (and whenever concern).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified Autism Checklist in Toddlers, Revised with Follow-up (MCHAT-R/F): 16-30 months 	96110: Developmental screening may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented	<p>96110 will be reimbursed up to 8 units total per child through age 5 years. 0 units will be reimbursed age 6 years and older.</p> <p>A maximum of 2 units of 96110 will be reimbursed per visit; OR</p> <p>96110 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. 96127) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit</p>
Mental health/behavioral assessment	Annually beginning at 3 years of age. Use of standardized screening tool is recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) Pediatric Symptom Checklist Youth Self-Report (PSC-Y) Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Social Emotional (ASQ-SE) Early Childhood Screening Assessment 	96127: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented	<p>A maximum of 2 units of 96127 will be reimbursed per visit; OR</p> <p>96127 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. 96110) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit</p>
Depression screening	Screening recommended annually beginning at 11 years of age. If providers choose, they can “pre-screen” with PHQ-2 to determine if a longer standardized screening tool is needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHQ-9 Modified for Teens Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-Y) Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC) 	96127: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented. PHQ-2 may not be billed.	<p>A maximum of 2 units of 96127 will be reimbursed per visit; OR</p> <p>96127 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. W7000) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit</p>

	Recommendation from Healthy Kids Preventive Health Schedule	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
		Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)		
Substance use assessment	<p>Annually beginning at 11 years of age; use of brief screening tool is recommended.</p> <p>Positive screens should be followed by brief intervention and referral for treatment when indicated (SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRAFFT • CRAFFT 2.0 • CRAFFT 2.1 • CRAFFT +N Interview • CAGE-AID 	<p>W7000: Alcohol and/or substance use disorder screening may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented.</p> <p>W7020: Intervention; > 3 minutes up to 10 minutes</p> <p>W7021: Intervention; >10 minutes up to 20 minutes</p> <p>W7022: Intervention; >20 minutes</p>	<p>A maximum of 1 unit of W7000 will be reimbursed annually for recipients age 11 and up</p> <p>W7000 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. 96127) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit</p> <p>A maximum of 4 interventions (W7020, W7021, and/or W7022) will be reimbursed annually per recipient age 11 and up</p>

Table 2: Other Pediatric Mental Health Screening/Assessments

	Recommendation	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
ADHD Assessment	AAP clinical policy recommends use of ADHD-focused parent and teacher ratings scales as a component of screening/diagnosis when there is concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Rating Scales – Parent and Teacher • Conners-3 Ratings Scales • ADHD Rating Scale-5 for Children and Adolescents 	96127: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented.	A maximum of 2 units of 96127 will be reimbursed per visit

	Recommendation	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
Other disorder-focused mental health screening/assessment	Disorder-focused mental health screening and assessment tools may be used when there is a specific concern, ex. anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for Childhood Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED) Spence Children's Anxiety Scale 	96127: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented.	A maximum of 2 units of 96127 will be reimbursed per visit

Table 3: Adult Screening/Assessments for Mental Health and Substance Use

	Recommendation	Examples of Acceptable Standardized Tools	Billing Guidelines	Limitations
Depression screening	Standardized screening tool is recommended; if providers choose, they can "pre-screen" with PHQ-2 to determine if a longer screen is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) 	96127: Brief emotional/behavioral assessment may be billed only when a standardized screening tool is used and results documented. PHQ-2 may not be billed.	96127 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. W7000) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit
Substance Use Screening	Standardized screening tool is recommended Positive screens should be followed by brief intervention and referral for treatment when indicated (SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST) Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement test (ASSIST) CRAFFT (under 21) CRAFFT 2.0 CRAFFT 2.1 CRAFFT N+ Interview 	W7000: Alcohol and/or substance use disorder screening, self-administered may be billed only when a standardized self-administered tool is used W7010: Alcohol and/or substance use disorder screening, provider administered may be billed only when a	A maximum of 1 unit of W7000 or W7010 will be reimbursed annually for recipients age 11 and up W7000 and W7010 may be combined with other screening codes (ex. 96127) for a maximum of 2 units of screening per visit A maximum of 4 interventions (W7020, W7021, and/or W7022) will be reimbursed annually per recipient age 11 and up

			standardized provider administered tool is used W7020: Intervention; > 3 minutes up to 10 minutes W7021: Intervention; >10 minutes up to 20 minutes W7022: Intervention; >20 minutes	
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Procedure Codes

Code	Description	Current reimbursement 2021
96110	Developmental screening (e.g. developmental milestone survey, speech and language delay screen) with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	\$8.86
96127	Brief emotional/behavioral assessment (e.g. depression inventory, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder scale), with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	\$4.71
96161	Administration of caregiver-focused health risk assessment instrument (e.g. depression inventory) for the benefit of the patient, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument	\$2.77
W7000	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) use disorder screening; self-administered	\$5.14
W7010	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) use disorder screening; provider administered structured screening (e.g. AUDIT, DAST)	\$17.13
W7020	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) use disorder intervention; greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes	\$5.71
W7021	W7021: Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) use disorder intervention; greater than 10 minutes up to 20 minutes	\$11.42

W7022	Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) use disorder intervention; greater than 20 minutes	\$22.36
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Links to publically available screening tools:

PSC and PCS-Y: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/healthykids/Documents/PSC-Y%20Teen%20Screen.pdf>

Or https://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/professionals/ped_sympton_chklst.pdf

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: <http://www.sdqinfo.org/py/sdqinfo/b0.py>

Early Childhood Screening Assessment – Tool: <https://medicine.tulane.edu/sites/g/files/rdw761/f/pictures/ECSA-Screen.pdf>

<https://medicine.tulane.edu/infant-institute/measure-manuals>

PHQ-2: <https://www.med-iq.com/files/noncme/material/pdfs/LI042%20IG%20tools.pdf>

PHQ: 9 - Modified for Teens: <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/epsdt/healthykids/Documents/PHQ-9%20Modified.pdf>

Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC):

https://www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/pdf/professionals/bridges/ces_dc.pdf

CRAFFT Screening Tool: self-administered: <https://crafft.org/get-the-crafft/#dl-adol>

CRAFFT Screening Tool: clinician administered: <https://crafft.org/get-the-crafft/#dl-adol>

CAGE-AID: <https://www.pedagogyeducation.com/Main-Campus/Resource-Library/Correctional-Nursing/CAGE-AID-Substance-Abuse-Screening-Tool.aspx>

AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test): <https://www.pedagogyeducation.com/Main-Campus/Resource-Library/Correctional-Nursing/CAGE-AID-Substance-Abuse-Screening-Tool.aspx>

DAST-A (Drug Abuse Screening Tool Adolescent): <https://www.nams.sg/helpseekers/drug-use/Documents/DAST-A.pdf>

Vanderbilt Assessment Scales: <http://www.nichq.org/childrens-health/adhd/resources/vanderbilt-assessment-scales>

SCARED: <https://www.ohsu.edu/sites/default/files/2019-06/SCARED-form-Parent-and-Child-version.pdf>

<https://www.midss.org/content/screen-child-anxiety-related-disorders-scared>

Spence Children's Anxiety Scale: http://www.scaswebsite.com/1_1_.html