

NEW CHILD HEALTH SCREENING REGULATIONS

EPSDT Overview

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services and Preventive Pediatric Healthcare Screening and Diagnosis (PPHSD) services are, collectively, the preventive care and treatment services that Network Health covers for MassHealth members under the age of 21. Network Health pays for these members to see their primary care providers on a periodic schedule. At these visits, primary care providers perform a series of health screenings. If the member has a positive screening, Network Health pays for further assessment, diagnosis, and treatment services. Network Health also pays for members under the age of 21 to visit their primary care provider (PCP) between periodic visits any time there might be something wrong.

For members entitled to EPSDT services, Network Health pays for all medically necessary assessment, diagnosis, and treatment services that are covered by federal Medicaid law, even if the services are not described in a contract, regulation, or procedure code covered for the member's coverage type.

There are revisions to the EPSDT and PPHSD services available to Network Health's MassHealth members under the age of 21. Network Health requires all our primary care providers to comply with these changes in the regulations. These revised regulations:

- Dictate that, in addition to MassHealth Standard members under 21, MassHealth CommonHealth members under 21 are entitled to EPSDT services. Formerly, MassHealth CommonHealth members under 21 were only entitled to PPHSD services.
- Expressly include behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) and developmental screenings in the list of screening services covered during an EPSDT or PPHSD visit
- Mandate that primary care providers offer to conduct EPSDT and PPHSD screenings according to the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule at the following ages:
 - One to two weeks
 - One, two, four, six, nine, 12, 15, and 18 months
 - Two years
 - Every year until the member's 21st birthdayPCPs must also provide or refer such members to assessment, diagnosis, and treatment services as necessary. The full periodicity schedule is available on our Web site, www.network-health.org.
- Clarify that providers requesting prior authorization for EPSDT services for Network Health members must direct those requests to Network Health
- Stipulate that primary care providers who conduct behavioral health screenings according to the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule will receive a separate flat-rate payment for the screening, in addition to the rate for the visit

The EPSDT Periodicity Schedule has been revised to update the procedures for conducting hearing, developmental and behavioral health screenings, and the sources of anticipatory guidance provided at periodic and interperiodic EPSDT and PPHSD visits.

The EPSDT/PPHSD Screening Services Codes (available at www.network-health.org) have been revised to update the list of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes that are reimbursable for laboratory services, hearing tests, and vision tests during a periodic or interperiodic EPSDT or PPHSD visit. A new code has been added for the behavioral health screenings that are mandated. Following, there is more information about certain of these revisions.

Mandate for PCPs to Offer to Conduct EPSDT/PPHSD Screenings and Refer Members for Further Diagnosis and Treatment

MassHealth and Network Health require that all PCPs offer to conduct periodic and medically necessary interperiodic EPSDT and PPHSD screenings for Network Health members under the age of 21, according to the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule. MassHealth and Network Health also require that PCPs provide or refer members to needed assessment, diagnosis, and treatment services.

“Primary care providers” are defined as:

- General practitioners
- Family physicians
- Internal medicine physicians
- Obstetrician/gynecologists
- Pediatricians
- Nurse practitioners and nurse midwives under a physician’s supervision

These providers must offer to conduct screenings when they practice in an individual or group practice, in the outpatient department of a hospital (acute or chronic and rehabilitation hospital) or in a community health center. Primary care services do not include emergency or post-stabilization services provided in a hospital or other setting. Therefore, primary care providers are not required to offer to conduct screenings according to the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule when practicing in those settings.

Developmental and Behavioral Health Screenings

In particular, developmental and behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) screenings are expressly included in the list of EPSDT/PPHSD screenings.

The EPSDT Periodicity Schedule is being revised to require that providers choose a clinically appropriate behavioral health screening tool from a menu of approved, standardized tools when conducting a behavioral health screening at a periodic or interperiodic visit. These standardized behavioral health screening tools are described in more detail below. Updates will be added to our Web site, www.network-health.org, as they become available.

Menu of Standardized Behavioral Health Screening Tools in EPSDT Periodicity Schedule

The menu of behavioral health screening tools that PCPs must use during EPSDT and PPHSD visits is published in the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule. These tools accommodate a range of ages while permitting some flexibility for provider preference and clinical judgment.

For your convenience, the menu of approved tools is reproduced in Table 1, Behavioral Health Screening Tools, along with a description of who completes the tool and the appropriate age group for the tool. This menu can also be found on our Web site, www.network-health.org. Please note that Table 1 is for your information only. The EPSDT Periodicity Schedule controls the approved behavioral health screening tools.

Table 1.	Behavioral Health Screening Tools	Who Completes the Tool	Appropriate Age Group for the Tool
ASQ:SE	Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional http://www.brookespublishing.com/tools/asqse/index.htm	Parent	4 to 60 months
BITSEA	Brief Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment http://harcourtassessment.com/HAIWEB/Cultures/en-us/Productdetail.htm?Pid=015-8007-352&Mode=summary	Parent	12 to 36 months
ASR	Achenbach System: Adult Self-Report http://www.ASEBA.org	Young adult	18 to 59 years
CRAFFT	Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble Screening for substance abuse http://www.ceasar-boston.org/clinicians/crafft.php	Youth	14 +
M-CHAT	Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers Screening for autism http://www.dbpeds.org/media/mchat.pdf (tool) http://www.dbpeds.org/articles/detail.cfm?TextID=377 (background)	Parent	18 to 30 months
PEDS	Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status http://www.pedstest.com	Parent	Birth to 8 years
PHQ-9	Patient Health Questionnaire-9 Screening for depression http://www.phqscreeners.com/	Young adult	18+
PSC Y-PSC	Pediatric Symptom Checklist Pediatric Symptom Checklist-Youth Report http://psc.partners.org/	Parent Youth	4 thru 16 years 11+ years

How to Submit a Claim for the Standardized Behavioral Health Screening Tools

Network Health will pay for the administration and scoring of the behavioral health tools listed in the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule when administered by PCPs, as defined in this document.

Network Health will reimburse a flat fee for the administration of one standardized behavioral health screening tool per MassHealth member, per day, regardless of the number of behavioral health screening tools administered on the same day for a given member.

Network Health will pay for behavioral health screening tools administered and scored in accordance with the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule separately from, and in addition to, the rate for the periodic or interperiodic EPSDT and PPHSD visits. Claims for the behavioral health screening tool must be submitted using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) service code 96110.

The following provider types can submit claims for reimbursement for the standardized behavioral health screening tools:

- PCPs as defined in this document
- Community health centers
- Hospital outpatient departments

Please note that distinct modifiers are required when billing the CPT code for the behavioral health screening tools. Effective July 1, 2008, failure to include the modifier will result in denial of the claim, so it is imperative to include these modifiers to receive payment. These modifiers will allow Network Health and MassHealth to track the disposition of the screening so that Network Health and MassHealth will know the number of members with an identified behavioral health need. These modifiers vary by provider type. Please see Table 2, Modifiers for Use with CPT Code 96110 for direction on the appropriate modifier to use.

Servicing Provider	Modifier for Use When No Behavioral Health Need Identified*	Modifier for Use When Behavioral Health Need Identified*
Physician, independent nurse midwife, independent nurse practitioner, community health center (CHC), outpatient hospital department (OPD)	U1	U2
Nurse midwife employed by physician or CHC	U3	U4
Nurse practitioner employed by physician or CHC	U5	U6
Physician assistant employed by physician or CHC	U7	U8

* “Behavioral Health Need Identified” includes needs in the areas of behavioral health, social-emotional well-being, or mental health.

The text of the CPT code and modifiers required to submit a claim for the standardized behavioral health screening tools are listed in Table 3, Text of CPT Code and Modifiers for Claiming the Standardized Behavioral Health Screening Tools. Please note that this list of codes is for your information only.

Table 3. Text of CPT Code and Modifiers for Claiming the Standardized Behavioral Health Screening Tools	
Code/ Modifier	Text of Code/Modifier
CPT 96110	Developmental testing limited (e.g., Developmental Screening Test II, Early Language Milestone Screen), with interpretation and report
U1	Physician, independent nurse midwife, independent nurse practitioner, community health center (CHC), outpatient hospital department (OPD) — completed behavioral health screening with no behavioral health need identified
U2	Physician, independent nurse midwife, independent nurse practitioner, community health center (CHC), outpatient hospital department (OPD) — completed behavioral health screening and behavioral health need identified
U3	Nurse midwife (SB) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening with no behavioral health need identified
U4	Nurse midwife (SB) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening and behavioral health need identified
U5	Nurse practitioner (SA) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening with no behavioral health need identified
U6	Nurse practitioner (SA) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening and behavioral health need identified
U7	Physician assistant (HN) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening with no behavioral health need identified
U8	Physician assistant (HN) employed by physician or CHC — completed behavioral health screening and behavioral health need identified

Training on How to Administer and Submit a Claim for the Standardized Behavioral Health Screening Tools

MassHealth and Network Health have offered training opportunities for providers to learn more about how to administer the standardized behavioral health screening tools listed in the EPSDT Periodicity Schedule and reproduced in Table 1.

Training on how to administer the standardized behavioral health screening tools will also be available online. For more information, please visit the MassHealth Web site's child behavioral health section that will be available beginning Monday, December 31, 2007: www.mass.gov/masshealth/childbehavioralhealth. There is more information about this Web site below.

Training on how to submit a claim for the administration of the standardized behavioral health screening tools is also available. You can contact Network Health at 888-257-1985 for more information on this training.

Child Behavioral Health Information on the Web

Starting Monday, December 31, 2007, the MassHealth Web site will contain information about children's behavioral health, including useful links for finding additional information. To get to this new area on the MassHealth Web site, go to www.mass.gov/masshealth/childbehavioralhealth. You may wish to bookmark this page for future reference, as MassHealth will be adding new information to this Web site over time.

Reminder to Verify Eligibility

Network Health encourages providers to use the Recipient Eligibility Verification System (REVS), *Network Health Connect*, NEHEN, or to call us at 888-257-1985 to verify members' day-to-day eligibility status, coverage type, restrictions, and third-party insurance coverage information.

Questions

If you have any questions about the EPSDT and PPHSD changes, please contact Network Health at 888-257-1985.