



## Infant and Early Childhood Developmental Screenings Up to Age 3

Early screenings for children from birth through age 3 is crucial to ensuring the best possible health outcomes. It's equally important to educate parents about the importance of these screenings so that they schedule them on time and follow through.

This Provider Tip Sheet was created with guidelines on well-child exams and Texas Health Steps from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). It should serve as a quick reference for when to screen children in their first few years of life using standardized screening tools for the risk of developmental, behavioral, and social delays.

### Age ranges

A total of 8 developmental screenings are allowed up to age 6 with a Texas Health Steps medical checkup/well-child exam within the following age ranges:

- 2 screenings from birth to 11 months
- 3 screenings from ages 12 to 23 months
- 2 screenings from ages 24 to 35 months
- 1 screening at 3 years of age

### Clinical recommendations

1. The AAP recommends developmental and behavioral screenings for all children during regular Texas Health Steps checkups/well-child visits at 9 months, 18 months, and 30 months.
2. In addition, the AAP recommends that all children be screened specifically for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) during regular Texas Health Steps checkups/well-child visits at 18 months and 24 months.
3. Developmental surveillance should be a component of every preventive care visit. Educate staff to schedule office visits within recommended time frames.
4. Standardized developmental screening tools should be used when surveillance identifies concerns about a child's development.

### Texas Health Steps/Well Child Checkup Recommended Standardized Screening Tools

Screening Ages	Developmental Screening Tools	Autism Screening Tools
9 months	ASQ or PEDS	
12 months	ASQ or PEDS if not completed at 9 months or if provider/parental concern	
18 months	ASQ or PEDS	M-CHAT
24 months	ASQ or ASQ-SE or PEDS	
30 months	ASQ or PEDS if not completed at 24 months or if provider/parental concern	
3 years	ASQ or ASQ-SE or PEDS	
4 years	ASQ or ASQ-SE or PEDS	

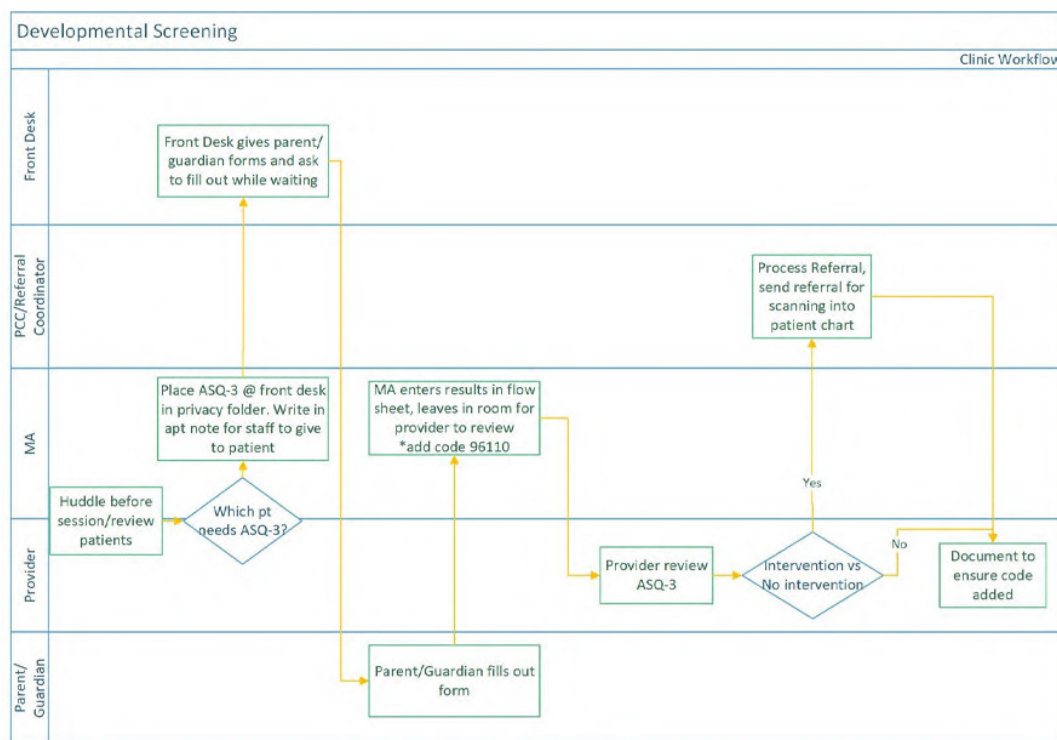
## CPT Codes

- **CPT Code 96110:** Use this CPT Code for developmental testing, with an interpretation and report, billed twice in a 12-month period.
- **CPT Code 96110 with modifier U6:** Use this CPT Code when additional screenings are performed for the screening of autism. This billing will not count toward the twice-yearly allowable regular screenings.

## Best Practices

- Integrate screening protocols into routine pediatric care to enhance detection of developmental delays during subsequent assessments (American Academy of Pediatrics, [AAP.org](http://AAP.org)).
- Perform developmental observation and screenings during each health visit using a validated tool at 9, 18, and 30 months of age (AAP). Framing developmental surveillance as “monitoring” may facilitate understanding when discussing it with families.
- Increase screening frequency for children with additional risk factors such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and exposure to lead, among others.
- Actively solicit and address parental concerns regarding their child’s development.
- Screen for maternal depression at 1, 2, 4, and 6-month visits, recognizing its impact as an adverse childhood experience affecting infants and children (AAP).
- Assess parents/guardians for non-medical drivers of health (NMDOH) (formerly social determinants of health, SDOH) and other risks such as food insecurity or housing instability at each patient encounter.
- Conduct regular screenings for social-emotional development at recommended intervals.
- Follow the developmental screening workflow below.

## Developmental Screening Workflow



## References:

- [Texas Health Steps Anticipatory Guidance Provider Guide](#)
- [Texas Health Steps Periodicity Schedule](#)