



## Developmental Screening for STAR Kids Members (First Three Years of Life)

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

This Provider Tip Sheet contains information about Texas Health Steps medical checkups and guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). It should serve as a quick reference for when to screen children in their first three years of life for developmental, behavioral, and social delays using standardized screening tools.

### Purpose

To improve the percentage of STAR Kids Members screened for risk of developmental, behavioral, and social delays using a standardized screening tool in the 12 months on or before their first, second, and third birthdays.

### Eligible Population

All STAR Kids Members under age 3 who receive Texas Health Steps medical checkups.

- Up to 8 developmental screenings are allowed up to age 6:
  - » 2 screenings up to ages 11 months
  - » 3 screenings at ages 12-23 months
  - » 2 screenings at ages 24-35 months
  - » 1 screening at 3 years

### Clinical Recommendations for STAR Kids

- Follow American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines for developmental and behavioral screenings at 9, 18, and 30 months, plus autism-specific screenings at 18 and 24 months.
- For STAR Kids Members with complex medical needs, consider additional screenings beyond the minimum schedule.

- Incorporate developmental surveillance at every preventive visit and address parental concerns promptly.
- Use Texas Health Steps-approved tools:
  - » ASQ-3 or PEDS for developmental screening
  - » M-CHAT for autism screening at 18 months

### Texas Health Steps-Recommended Standardized Screening Tools

Screening Age	Developmental Screening Tools	Autism Screening Tools
9 months	ASQ-3 or PEDS	
12 months	ASQ-3 or PEDS if not completed at 9 months or if provider/parental concern	
18 months	ASQ-3 or PEDS	M-CHAT
	ASQ-3 or PEDS	
30 months	ASQ-3 or PEDS if not completed at 24 months or if provider/parental concern	
3 years	ASQ-3 or ASQ-Se-2 or PEDS	
4 years	ASQ-3 or ASQ-Se-2 or PEDS	

### CPT Codes for STAR Kids

- 96110 for developmental screening (twice within 12 months).
- For autism screening, bill 96110 with modifier U6 (does not count toward twice-yearly limit).

### Best Practices for STAR Kids Population

- Integrate screening protocols into routine care and care coordination plans.
- Increase screening frequency for Members with risk factors (prematurity, low birth weight, genetic conditions).
- Address parental concerns and provide culturally appropriate education.
- Screen for maternal depression and non-medical drivers of health (NMDOH) at recommended intervals.
- Collaborate with Service Coordinators to ensure follow up and referrals for identified delays.
- Document screenings in STAR Kids Individual Service Plan (ISP) for continuity of care.

### Quality Monitoring

- Audit compliance with screening schedule.
- Provide staff training on AAP and Texas Health Steps guidelines.
- Use reminder systems in EMR for upcoming screenings.

## Developmental Screenings Clinic Workflow

