

Developmental Screening Tools *Choices for Practices and Providers*

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The following table is designed to help select high-quality and practical tools to screen children from birth to 8 years of age for developmental delays or disabilities. All tools listed have at least 70% accuracy – that is, sensitivity and specificity, correctly identifying at least 70% of children with and without disabilities, delays or problems.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that physicians do developmental screenings with a high-quality tool – such as ASQ (the Ages and Stages Questionnaires), PEDS (Parent’s Evaluation of Developmental Status), and PEDS:DM (PEDS: Developmental Milestones) – at least three times before a child’s third birthday – at the 9-month, 18-month, and 30-month (or 24-month) pediatric visits.¹

The screening starting point for all children is general developmental screening. All tools listed in the first section – *General Developmental Screening Tools* – of the following table:²

- Cover all developmental domains;
- Have high accuracy – 70-80%;
- Are short, simple parental-report instruments;
- Are low-cost and easy to administer and score;
- Are appropriate for very young children; and
- Can be completed in many settings – in a pediatric or family medicine practice, in a child care center or Head Start program, during a home visit to a family with a young child, etc.

ASQ, PEDS, and PEDS:DM:

- Are billable under CPT Code #96110 (developmental screening) in fee-for-service medical settings;
- Can be used with Electronic Medical Records (EMR); and
- Are either available online or will be shortly.
 - ASQ will be available online in English in 2009, as will be ASQ:SE (Social-Emotional).
 - PEDS is already available online in English, and the online application includes a record of parental concerns, PEDS results by developmental domains, summary report for parents, billing codes (ICD-9 and procedure codes), and a referral letter to the child’s pediatrician or Early Intervention program when indicated. An online *Spanish* version is expected in 2009.
 - PEDS:DM is slated to be available online in English by 2009.

To help providers select appropriate second-level screening tools for specific developmental domains, the list of *General Developmental Screening Tools* is followed by five clusters of specialized screening tools:

- Social-Emotional and Behavioral Screening Tools;
- Autism Screening Tools;
- Language and Cognitive Screening Tools;
- Motor Screening Tools; and
- Specialized Screening Tools – Covering Multiple But Not All Developmental Domains.

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics' Council of Children with Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee and Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. "Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening." *Pediatrics* 2006; 118; 405-420, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/118/1/405.pdf>.

² *Note:* The Denver-II Developmental Screening Test, while well-known, is not included in this table – primarily because its accuracy is much lower than the newer ASQ, PEDS, and PEDS:DM.