

Coding and Reimbursement Developmental Screening

I. Preventive Visits

North Carolina Medicaid Program -Health Check

The North Carolina Medicaid program developed a statewide initiative called Health Check in 1993 to improve access to preventive health services for Medicaid enrolled children. Medicaid children are eligible to receive comprehensive well-child check ups on a regular basis throughout childhood.

Health Check prescribes the required components of these well-child visits. The requirement for written developmental screening, effective 7/1/04, is a standardized, formal developmental screening is to be performed on the following schedule: 6 months, 12 months, 18 or 24 months, 36 months, 48 months, and 60 months.

*Providers bill Medicaid for the screening at these visits using CPT code 96110-EP along with the appropriate preventive code. For more specific information on billing call **EDS***

*at **1-800-688-6696** or visit the Division of Medical Assistance Website at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma. Click on **Publications** then under Provider Information click on Medicaid General and Special Bulletins. Look for the bulletin which is the Health Check billing guide.*

Physicians are reimbursed at \$80.33 which includes the developmental screen as outlined above. Please note that this fee is subject to change each calendar year.

North Carolina Children's' Health Insurance Program - Health

Families who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford rising health insurance premiums are able to get free or reduced price comprehensive health care for their children. The plan called Health Choice was made available in 1998 and the coverage for children is similar to the coverage provided for children of state employees and teachers. The only difference in coverage is that Health Choice covers vision, hearing, and dental.

*The Health Choice program pays for well-child visits and providers use CPT preventive medicine codes when billing for the service. Developmental screening is considered a component of the well-child visit, but is billed and paid separately. For additional information on services and billing you may call **1-800 422-4658** or visit the website at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma. Click on **Programs** then on North Carolina Health Choice.*

Physicians are reimbursed at 100% of the Usual and Customary Rate.

Commercial Insurance

Commercial coverage of developmental screening varies across plans. Check with each plan to determine coverage.

List of Largest NC carriers and phone numbers

➤ **Aetna U.S. Healthcare**

1-(800) 872-3862 This number is not within NC. When calling this number you will want customer service option. Please be certain to have the patient's social security number in front of you. They will ask for that information and then give you another number to call to verify coverage.

➤ **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina**

1-(877) 258-3334 You will press #1 on your phone(as a medical provider) after connecting to the center.. Please remember to have the patient's health insurance information ready when calling.

➤ **Cigna Healthcare**

1-(800)849-9000 You will press #2 (as a physician) on your phone after connecting to the center. Please have the patient's health insurance information available for questions and reference.

➤ **Doctors Health Plan**

1-(800)476-2303 You will press #3 (as a physician) on your phone after connecting to the center. Please have the patient's health insurance information available for questions and reference.

➤ **Partners Health Plan**

1-(800)942-5695 You will press #3 (as a physician) on your phone after connecting to the center. Please have the patient's health insurance information available for questions and reference.

➤ **United Healthcare**

1-(800)999-1147 You will press #1 on your phone to obtain information about patient coverage. Please have the patient's health insurance information available for questions and reference.

(Note: For a complete list of carriers go to the NC Department of Insurance Website at www.ncdoi.com.)

II. Developmental Screening outside of the preventive schedule of visits-general billing information:

<u>CPT Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>
96110	Developmental Testing
99420	Administration and interpretation of health risk assessment (behavior screening)
96114	Neurobehavioral status exam

<u>Diagnosis Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>
783.4	Developmental Delay

784.5	Other Speech Disturbance
309.23	Academic Inhibition (school problems)
315.4	Developmental Coordination Disorder
309.3	Disturbance of Conduct

(Note: Check with Medicaid, Health Choice, and the commercial carriers about their coverage of developmental screening outside of the preventive visit schedule. Please remember that many commercial carriers consider the 300 diagnosis series as covered under their mental health rider. Ask the carrier to specify if these diagnoses are covered in your office. Please refer to the current year ICD-9 CM book for a complete list of diagnosis codes).

Need Help ?

A more complete guide to CPT developmental and behavioral coding can be found in “*The Classification of Child and Adolescent Mental Diagnosis in Primary Care: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Primary Care (Dsm-Pc) Child.*” Go on line at www.aap.org.