

N.C. Health Check Billing Guide



2016

<https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/find-programs-and-services/health-check-and-epsdt>

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NC Health Check Billing Guide 2016

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Section I: Health Check Overview

Well Child Preventive Services

Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, as specified in **42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r)] of the *Social Security Act***, requires coverage of a comprehensive menu of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services for its eligible beneficiaries under age 21. Federal EPSDT law requires states to make health care services available to all Medicaid eligible children to "correct or ameliorate" defects, physical or mental illness, or health conditions identified through a screening assessment, when those services meet carefully applied and individualized standards of pediatric medical necessity.

EPSDT benefit guarantees contained in **§ 1905(r) of the *Social Security Act*** specifically require that eligible children have access to early and regular medical surveillance and preventive services, including but not limited to physical assessments, vision, hearing, developmental/mental health screenings, referral and follow-up care to promote good health and to ensure earliest possible diagnosis and treatment of health problems. In North Carolina, this preventive health services/periodic screening portion of Medicaid's package of healthcare benefits for children is known as *Health Check*. A comprehensive wellness exam is performed during periodic well-child visits and is reimbursed by the North Carolina Medicaid program. All *Health Check* services are available without copay or other beneficiary expense, to Medicaid eligible children. When a screening discloses a need for further evaluation of an individual's health, diagnostic and treatment services must be provided. Referrals should be arranged for without delay and there should be follow-up to ensure the enrollee receives a complete diagnostic evaluation.

Each provider rendering NC Medicaid *Health Check* Well Child services shall:

- Deliver a comprehensive exam, inclusive of all *Health Check* required preventive health screening and assessments;
- Assist families with scheduling appointments for timely *Health Check* well-child visits, assessments, referrals and follow-up;
- Implement a system for follow-up with families whose children miss their *Health Check* well-child visits;
- Complete, document, and follow up on appropriate referrals for medically necessary services to treat conditions and health risks identified through a *Health Check* screening.

Each *Health Check* component that is required in the Well Child visit is vital for measuring and monitoring a child's physical, mental and developmental growth over time. Families are encouraged to have their children receive *Health Check* well-child visits and immunizations on a regular schedule.

All healthcare professionals who provide a *Health Check* well-child visit are *required to complete all core components* of the visit, including vaccinations, blood lead screens and 18/24 month screens for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to provide complete documentation of those assessments in the child's medical record, including history, current status, findings, results of clinical interventions and of brief screens, referrals and recommendations.

NOTE on ICD 10:

Providers must use ICD 10 coding when billing ***Health Check*** Wellness visits conducted after October 1, 2015. (Providers must still use ICD-9CM coding when billing for services provided prior to October 1, 2015.)

This coding iteration is more specific than previous ICD 9 codes. A complete list of ICD 10-CM codes applicable to Early Preventive Screens (with crosswalk to old ICD 9-CM codes) appears in this edition of this Guide.

NC Health Check Preventive Health Services Periodicity Schedule

North Carolina's recommended schedule for *Health Check* Early Periodic Screens reflects the evidence-based principles of preventive care set forth by the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** in their landmark publication, *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children and Adolescents*. Support for the elements and intervals of primary care services recommended in this schedule also comes from the **American Dental Association (ADA)**, the **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)** and other child health advocacy organizations.

The *Bright Futures Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care Periodicity Schedule* is located at:

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/suppl/2007/12/03/120.6.1376.DC1/Preventive_Health_Care_Chart.pdf

North Carolina's *Health Check Periodicity Schedule* is included in this section of the Guide. It may also be found online at:

<https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/DMA/healthcheck/index.htm>

The NC *Health Check* Program recommends regular medical screening assessments (well child visits) for beneficiaries as indicated in the following table. North Carolina Medicaid's periodicity schedule is only a guideline. Should a beneficiary need to have screening or assessment visits on a different schedule, the visits are still covered. While frequency of visits is not a required element of reimbursement by NC *Health Check*, this schedule of visits for eligible infants, children and adolescents is strongly recommended to parents and health care providers.

Please Note:

Completion of all elements of the *Health Check* well-child visit as indicated for each age group in the periodicity schedule is *required* for Medicaid provider reimbursement.

NC Periodicity Schedule Quick View



North Carolina's Periodicity Schedule and Coding Guide for Early Periodic Screening

A **complete Health Check Early Periodic (wellness) Screening** requires all age related components/screening services to be completed, documented in medical record and billed with appropriate coding and modifier combinations for each service required for that age.

- Report the appropriate ICD 10-CM diagnosis code(s) for all Periodic and Interperiodic visits.
- Reference CSRA Job Aids and Provider Training materials for additional billing instructions, additional modifiers, appropriate diagnosis codes, referral codes, as well as CPT codes for reporting immunizations and immunization administration.

| Components / Screening Services | Within 1st month | 2 mo | 4 mo | 6 mo | 9 mo | 12 mo | 15 mo | 18 mo | 24 mo |
|---|---|------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Preventive: New Pt ¹ | 99381 / EP | 99381 / EP | 99381 / EP | 99381 / EP | 99381 / EP | 99382 / EP | 99382 / EP | 99382 / EP | 99382 / EP |
| Preventive: Established Pt ¹ | 99391 / EP | 99391 / EP | 99391 / EP | 99391 / EP | 99391 / EP | 99392 / EP | 99392 / EP | 99392 / EP | 99392 / EP |
| Developmental Surveillance | Conduct surveillance at every preventive health visit. Surveillance is required component of Early Periodic Screens. | | | | | | | | |
| Developmental Screenings ² | | | | Health ✓ recommends 96110/EP | | Health ✓ recommends 96110/EP | | Health ✓ recommends 96110/EP at 18 or 24 mo | |
| Autism Screenings ² | | | | | | | | 96110 / EP ASD- required | 96110/EP ASD- required |
| Psychosocial-Emotional./ Behav. Screens | ** Please Note: Per AAP, CPT 96127 recommended screens include: ASQ-SE; ASAS; Becks, PHQ-2/9; BASC2; BRIEF; Briggance; BITSEA; Conner's; Kutchar; PSC; Y-PSC; SCARED; SDQ; CRAFTT; Vanderbilt. | | | | | | | | |
| Vision Screenings | Based on risk factors | | | | | | | | |
| Hearing Screenings | Based on risk factors If performed, report one of the following codes with the EP modifier: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 92551 + EP mod for Hearing Screening: pure tone, air only 92552 + EP mod for Hearing Test: Pure tone audiometry [threshold]; air only 92587 + EP mod for Hearing Test: Distortion product evoked otoacoustic emissions; limited evaluation (to confirm the presence/absence of hearing disorder) or transient evoked otoacoustic emissions, w interpretation and report | | | | | | | | |
| Oral Health Screenings ³ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hemoglobin or Hematocrit ⁴ | Based on risk factors | | | | 9 or 12 months required | | Based on risk factors | | |
| Lead Screening ⁵ | | | | | | Required | | | Required |
| TB Testing | Should be performed as clinically indicated for children and adolescents at increased risk of exposure to tuberculosis. Reference DPI http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/tb/toc.html and this Guide for children's screening criteria. | | | | | | | | |
| Dyslipidemia | Follow established pediatric best practice guidelines in Screening for Dyslipidemia. Perform Cholesterol/Triglycerides Screening based on risk assessment. | | | | | | | | |
| Immunizations | Follow the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for age appropriate immunization guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Child, Adolescent and Catch-Up Immunization Schedules found at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html Refer to the North Carolina Immunization Branch for additional information. Please Note: Providers must complete all required elements of an Early Periodic Screen. A provider may refer the <i>complete</i> screen to a Local Health Department on completion of a MOA with LHD. The immunization portion of the preventive health visit may not be referred to local health departments. Refer to CSRA's Provider information and Job Aids for detailed billing instructions. | | | | | | | | |



North Carolina's Periodicity Schedule and Coding Guide for Early Periodic Screening

| <p>A complete Health Check Early Periodic (wellness) Screening requires all age related components/screening services to be completed, documented in medical record and billed with appropriate coding and modifier combinations for each service required for that age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report the appropriate ICD 10-CM diagnosis code for all Periodic and Interperiodic visits. <p>Reference CSRA Job Aids and Provider Training materials for additional billing instructions, additional modifiers, appropriate diagnosis codes, referral codes, as well as CPT codes for reporting immunizations and immunization administration.</p> | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Components / Screening Services | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years | 6-11 years | 12-17 years | 18-20 years |
| Assessment: New Pt ¹ | 99382 + EP | 99382 + EP | 99383 + EP | 99383 + EP | 99384 + EP | 99385 + EP |
| Assessment: Established Pt ¹ | 99392 + EP | 99392 + EP | 99393 + EP | 99393 + EP | 99394 + EP | 99395 + EP |
| Developmental Surveillance | Conduct surveillance at every preventive health visit. Surveillance is required component of Early Periodic Screens. | | | | | |
| Developmental Screenings ² | Health ✓ rec. 96110/EP | Health ✓ rec. 96110/EP | Health ✓ rec. 96110/EP | | | |
| Autism Screenings ² | Based on risk factors | | | | | |
| Psychosocial - Emot/Behavioral Screens ² | <p>Use scientifically validated screening tools as clinically indicated to identify risk for psychosocial/emotional/behavioral risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96127 + EP modifier for Emotional/Behavioral screens, including PSC/SDQ/PSQ-A/Beck's, CRAFFT) <p>For beneficiaries > 11 years old AAP recommends following screens (included EP modifier):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99420 +EP mod for Adolescent Health Risk Assessment (Bright Futures Adolescent Questionnaire/GAPS/HEADSSS) 99406/99407 + EP mod for Smoking/Tobacco Use Cessation; for svc directly to beneficiary; Include '25' mod. 99408/99409 + EP mod for ETOH/SA Screening/Brief Intervention; for svc directly to beneficiary; Include '25' mod. | | | | | |
| Vision Screenings | 99172 or 99173 + EP | 99172 or 99173 + EP | 99172 or 99173 + EP | 99172 or 99173 + EP | Once every 3 yrs or based on risk factors 99172 or 99173 + EP | |
| Hearing Screenings | Based on risk factors | 92551 or 92552 + EP | 92551 or 92552 + EP | 92551 or 92552 + EP | Based on risk factors | |
| Oral Health Screenings ³ | Refer to Dentist ⁴ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hemoglobin or Hematocrit ⁴ | Annually for females w/ risk factors. Follow the recommendations of the most recent Bright Futures Guidelines. | | | | | |
| Lead Screening ⁵ | Children between 36 -72 months of age must be tested if they have not been previously tested; children new to Medicaid that have never been tested for blood lead should be tested at any age when risk factors are present. | | | | | |
| TB Testing | Should be performed as clinically indicated for children and adolescents at increased risk of exposure to tuberculosis. Reference DPI http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/tb/toc.html and this Guide for children's screening criteria. | | | | | |
| Dyslipidemia | Follow established best practice guidelines in Screening for Dyslipidemia. Perform Cholesterol/Triglycerides Screening based on risk assessment and at 18 – 20 years. | | | | | |
| Immunizations | Follow the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for age appropriate immunization guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Child, Adolescent and Catch-Up Immunization Schedules found at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html | | | | | |
| Billing Details | <p>Refer to the North Carolina Immunization Branch for additional information.</p> <p>Please Note: Providers must complete all required elements of an Early Periodic Screen. A provider may refer the <i>complete</i> screen to a Local Health Department on completion of a MOA with LHD.</p> <p>The immunization portion of the preventive health visit may not be referred to local health departments.</p> <p>Refer to CSRA's Provider information and Job Aids for detailed billing instructions.</p> | | | | | |

Footnotes:

- 1: Health Check Early Periodic Screening components **may** include: surveillance (required at every WCC); comprehensive health history; unclothed physical assessment; hemoglobin/hematocrit, maternal depression, blood lead, developmental and other brief, scientifically validated screens; length (as age appropriate); nutritional assessment; vital signs; Body Mass Index (recording BMI begins at age 2 through 20); blood pressure (BP begins at age 3, continuing through age 20); anticipatory guidance and parent/caregiver education.
 - An infant without documentation of Newborn Metabolic and/or Sickle Cell screenings at birth should have the screening test as soon as possible. Refer to Health Check Billing Guide for further instructions.
 - Providers should include the appropriate ICD 10 BMI diagnosis codes into their claims for well-child care.
- 2: Scientifically validated screening tools must be used when administering brief screens. Providers must keep appropriate documentation of the screening tool in the child's medical records, must document results and referrals necessary, and are required to coordinate follow-up care if risk factors are identified.
- 3: **Oral Health:**
 - The **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** defines “dental services” as services provided by or under the supervision of a dentist, and “oral health services” as services **not** provided by, or under the supervision of, a dentist.
 - Oral health screenings, services such as fluoride applications and referrals to a Dental Home are performed by Primary Care Physicians and Pediatricians as an integral component of preventive health visits.
 - **North Carolina requires an Oral Health Screening at every preventive health visit.**
 - Although not a requirement of a Health Check screening assessment, providers who perform a Health Check Well Child Checkup and dental varnishing may bill for both services. For billing codes and guidelines, refer to Clinical Coverage Policy # 1A-23, *Physician Fluoride Varnish Services*, on DMA's website at:
<https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/files/1A23.pdf>
- 4: **Hemoglobin / Hematocrit:** **Must** be measured once during infancy between the ages of 9 and 12 months for all children. For adolescent females (ages 11 to 21 years) an annual hemoglobin or hematocrit **must** be performed if risk factors are present. For risk factors and for adolescent females, refer to the most recent *Bright Futures Guidelines* for clinical recommendations.
- 5: **Lead Screening:** Required at 12- and 24-months. Children between 36 -72 months of age must be tested if they have not been previously tested. Children new to Medicaid that have never been tested for blood lead should be tested at any age, when risk factors are present. Providers may bill one unit CPT 83655 when using a Point of Care, CLIA approved Blood Lead Analyzer. Capillary blood draws are considered incidental to preventive service and should not be billed. Providers must follow all guidelines for reporting to State Blood Lead program/DPH. **A venous sample must be collected for outside laboratory analysis for a screen result ≥ 5 ug.**

Additional Billing Details:

Referral Codes for Health Check: **All** electronically submitted claims must list referral code indicator “E” when a referral is made for follow-up or an identified condition

Use ICD 10-CM Coding for all services provider after 10/1/2015.

Capillary blood draws are considered incidental to **Health Check** Early Periodic Screening and should not be billed.

CPT Code for Blood Draws: Report 36415 for **Venous** blood draw when an external laboratory analysis is required.

Report CPT 99420 for Maternal Depression Screens/First year of life and for Adolescent Risk Screens (**Bright Futures** Supplemental Questionnaire/GAPS/HEADSS)

Report 96110 when conducting Developmental Screening for children ages 5 and younger **and** for required Autism Screening at **AAP** recommended ages of 18 and 24 months.

For Health Check Required Components: Report all component services that were performed with appropriate CPT Codes.

When an E/M Service is Required Same Day as Health Check visit: Report **only** the additional work required to evaluate/manage focused complaint and bill on same claim with preventive service, appended with '25' Modifier. Follow all documentation requirements supporting medical necessity.

Early Periodic Screening *ICD-9-CM / ICD-10-CM Crosswalks*

| ICD-9-CM Code | Descriptor | ICD-10- CM Code | Descriptor |
|--|--|-----------------|---|
| V20.2 | Routine infant or child health check | Z00.121 | Encounter for routine child health examination <i>with</i> abnormal findings |
| V20.2 | Routine infant or child health check | Z00.129 | Encounter for routine child health examination <i>without</i> abnormal findings |
| V20.31 | Newborn check under 8 days old | Z00.110 | Newborn check under 8 days old |
| V20.32 | Newborn check 8 to 28 days old | Z00.111 | Newborn check 8 to 28 days old |
| <i>Routine Interperiodic Screening Encounters</i> | | | |
| V70.3 | Other medical exam for administrative purposes | Z02.89 | encounter for other administrative exams |
| <i>Interperiodic Visits Following a Failed Vision or Hearing Screen</i> | | | |
| V72.0 | Examination of eyes and vision | Z01.00 | Encounter for examination of eyes and vision without abnormal findings |
| V72.0 | Examination of eyes and vision | Z01.01 | Encounter for examination of eyes and vision with abnormal findings |
| V72.11 | Encounter for hearing examination following failed hearing screen | Z01.110 | Encounter for hearing examination following failed hearing screening |
| V72.19 | Other examination of ears and hearing | Z01.10 | Encounter for examination of ears and hearing without abnormal findings |
| V72.19 | Other examination of ears and hearing | Z01.118 | Encounter for examination of ears and hearing with other abnormal findings |
| <i>ACIP/VFC Immunizations</i> | | | |
| V03-V06.9 | Need for prophylactic vaccination and inoculation | Z23 | Encounter for immunization |
| v15.83 | Under-immunized status | Z28.3 | Under-immunized status |
| <i>Lead Screens and follow Up of Positives</i> | | | |
| V82.5 | Special Screening for chemical poisoning and other contaminants | Z13.88 | Encounter for screening for disorder due to exposure to contaminants |
| V15.86 | Personal History of contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead. | Z77.011 | Contact with and (suspected) exposure to lead. |
| <i>Tuberculosis Screens</i> | | | |
| V74.1 | Special screening examination for pulmonary tuberculosis | Z11.1 | Encounter for screening for respiratory tuberculosis |

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Section II: Periodic NC Health Check Preventive Services Visit Components

A complete *Health Check* well child visit must include all of the age-appropriate components identified below.

Comprehensive Health History

At the time of the initial evaluation, this will include a medical history, family history, social history, and review of systems. The provider must update this information in the beneficiary's medical record at each subsequent visit.

Unclothed Physical Assessment and Measurements

The provider shall perform a **complete physical appraisal** of the unclothed child or adolescent at each periodic NC *Health Check* well-child visit to distinguish any observable deviations from normal, expected findings. The assessment will use techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation. **Weight (for all ages) and height (for all ages) and head circumference (for infants and children through age 2 years)** must be measured. **Weight for length must be determined for all beneficiaries less than 2 years of age. BMI must also be calculated and BMI percentile** must be determined by plotting on a gender and age-appropriate growth chart (**starting at age 2**). **Blood pressure and blood pressure percentile (starting at age 3)** is required, but additional vital signs should be measured as appropriate. Providers should reference tables of age-normed vital signs as needed.

BMI Coding

Childhood obesity is a serious national health concern, presenting documented risks to health and well-being during childhood and throughout the lifespan. A priority of **The American Academy of Pediatrics** is helping primary care clinicians and families prevent and treat childhood obesity and overweight conditions.

Measurement and follow-up of Body Mass Index (BMI) is a core Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure for quality of care. In December of 2009, the **Agency for**

Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) included BMI measurement in its set of 24 child health indicators for state Medicaid and CHIP programs. North Carolina **Health Check** encourages all primary care providers to incorporate appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes on claims billed for each wellness/preventive visit. Additionally, when recording and reporting BMI percentiles, providers are *strongly encouraged* to report one of the following ICD 10-CM codes in the Diagnosis Code Information section in the NCTracks Web Portal by adding new diagnosis line. (This entry crosswalks to block 21.2, 21.3 or 21.4 of the CMS-1500 Claim Form).

| ICD 10 Code | BMI Percentile |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Z68.51 | < 5th percentile |
| Z68.52 | 5 th to < 85th percentile |
| Z68.53 | 85th to < 95th percentile |
| Z68.54 | ≥ 95th percentile |

ICD 10 Coding

Providers are *required* to report the primary ICD-10-CM codes in the NCTracks Web Portal when creating a Professional claim under Service(s) Screen for Diagnosis Code Information (crosswalk to block 21.1 of the CMS-1500 Claim Form) for all NC **Health Check** well-child visits. A complete ICD 9 / 10 Crosswalk Guide is found later in this section.

| ICD-10- CM Code | Descriptor |
|---|---|
| <i>Routine Periodic Screening Encounters</i> | |
| Z00.121 | Encounter for routine child health exam (pt < 18 years old) <i>with</i> abnormal findings |
| Z00.129 | Encounter for routine child health exam (pt < 18 years old) <i>without</i> abnormal findings |
| Z00.110 | Newborn check under 8 days old |
| Z00.111 | Newborn check 8 to 28 days old |
| Z00.00 | Encounter for general adult medical exam (pt ≥ 18 years) <i>without</i> abnormal findings |
| Z00.01 | Encounter for general adult medical exam (pt ≥ 18 years) <i>with</i> abnormal findings |

Nutritional Assessment

This assessment may include a combination of physical, laboratory, health-risk assessment, and dietary determinations that yield information for assessing the nutritional status of the beneficiary. Further assessment or an appropriate management plan, with referral and follow-up, is indicated when dietary practices suggest risk factors for co-morbidities, dietary inadequacy, obesity, disordered eating practices (pica, eating disorders, or excessive supplementation) or other nutritional problems.

Best practice references include:

- The most recent (3rd Edition) *Bright Futures Guidelines* and *Bright Futures Nutrition* pocket guides, found at:

<https://brightfutures.aap.org/materials-and-tools/guidelines-and-pocket-guide/Pages/default.aspx>

https://brightfutures.aap.org/Bright%20Futures%20Documents/BFNutrition3rdEdition_TocBkgnd.pdf

- The *Eat Smart Move More North Carolina* “Prescription for Health—5-3-2-1-Almost None” guide at:

www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com/PediatricObesityTools/PediatricObesityTools.html

- The US Department of Agriculture, “MyPlate” food group recommendations at:

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/MyPlate>

- The *Pediatric Obesity Prevention and Treatment Algorithm* (NC Design Team, Contributors, and Reviewers) and related tools are available at:

www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com/PediatricObesityTools/Texts/ClinicianRefGuide.pdf

- Research about multivitamin supplementation for female adolescents of childbearing age is available at:

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/279/18/1430>

and at:

<http://everywomannc.com>

Vision Screenings

Objective screenings must be performed during **every** periodic screening assessment beginning at age three through age 10 years. Starting at age 11 years, vision screenings must be performed once every three years. Providers shall selectively screen vision at other ages based on the provider's assessment of risk, including any academic difficulties.

For guidance on vision risk assessment/screening for children and youth, go to **AAP Policy Statement** on "*Eye Examination in Infants, Children and Young Adults by Pediatricians*" at:

http://brightfutures.aap.org/pdfs/BF3%20pocket%20guide_final.pdf

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/111/4/902.full.pdf>

For children who are uncooperative with a vision screening, providers may ask the parent or legal guardian to bring the child back into the office within a few days for a second attempt at the vision screening. Children who cannot be tested after repeated attempts must be referred to an *eye care professional* for a comprehensive vision examination. The repeated attempts and the referral to an eye care professional must be documented in the medical record.

For children who are blind or who are unable to be screened for any reason, providers shall:

- Document in the beneficiary's medical record the date of service and the reason(s) why the provider was unable to perform the vision screening; and
- Submit the claim to the DMA's billing contractor without the vision CPT code. Fiscal Agent will process the claim.

Hearing Screenings

Objective screenings using an audiometer (auditory sweep) or otoacoustic auditory emission (OAE) tool must be performed annually for children ages four through 10.

At all other ages, providers shall selectively screen based on the provider's assessment of risk.

Screening must occur if:

- the parent is concerned about the child's hearing, speech or language; or
- parent or child reports problems including academic difficulties; or
- the child is exposed to:
 - potentially damaging noise levels;
 - head trauma with loss of consciousness;
 - recurring ear infections;
 - acute or chronic disease that could contribute to hearing loss; or
 - ototoxic medications

For further guidance go to:

<https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/about/ layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/about/Documents/EHDI%20Residency%20PPT%203.1.16.pptx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1>

For children who are uncooperative with hearing screening, providers may ask the parent or legal guardian to bring the child back into the office within a few days for a second attempt at the hearing screening. Children who cannot be tested after repeated attempts *must be referred to an audiologist* for a hearing evaluation. The provider shall document repeated attempts and referral to an audiologist in the medical record.

For children who are deaf or who are unable to be screened for any reason, providers shall:

- Document in the patient's medical record the date of service and the reason(s) the provider was unable to perform the hearing screening, and;
- Submit the claim to NC Fiscal Agent without the hearing CPT code,

Fiscal Agent will process the claim.

Dental Screenings

An oral screening must be performed at every **Health Check** well child visit. In addition, referral to a dentist to establish a dental home is **recommended** for every child **by** age one and **required** beginning at age three. The initial dental referral must be provided unless it is known that the child already has a dental home. An oral health risk assessment is recommended for all young children at well visits until age 3 ½ years. Oral risk screening tools include either the

NC Priority Oral Risk and Referral Tool (PORRT) or the **Bright Futures Oral Health Risk Tool**. When any screening indicates a need for dental services at an early age, referrals must be made for needed dental services and documented in the child's medical record. The NC Oral Health periodicity schedule for dental examinations, found in this section, *is a separate and independent schedule for regular dental care for children*.

Note: Providers who perform a Health Check screening assessment and dental varnishing may bill for both services. Application of dental varnishing is not a required Health Check Well Child visit component. For billing codes and guidelines, refer to Clinical Coverage Policy # 1A-23, **Physician Fluoride Varnish Services**, on DMA's website at:

<https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/files/1A23.pdf>

Refer to the **Oral Health Periodicity Schedule** in this document and on DMA's website at:

<https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/find-programs-and-services/health-check-and-epsdt>

For a list of North Carolina dental providers by county who accept Medicaid, go to:

<http://dma.ncdhhs.gov/find-a-doctor/medicaid-dental-providers>

For further guidance regarding dental benefits, see the combined **Medicaid and Health Choice Dental Coverage Policy** at:

<https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/files/4A.pdf>

and at:

<https://ncdma.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/files/4B.pdf>

North Carolina Oral Health Periodicity Schedule

The North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) Oral Health Periodicity Schedule follows a modified version of the **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's (AAPD)** *Periodicity of Examination, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance, and Oral Treatment for Children*. The DMA periodicity schedule has been developed in consultation with local authorities in the field of pediatric oral health care. This schedule is designed for the care of children who have no contributing medical conditions and are developing normally. All services rendered under DMA Dental Services Clinical Coverage Policy guidelines must be medically necessary.

Promotion of oral health care is considered a joint responsibility between oral health professionals and other health care professionals. This periodicity schedule recommends appropriate intervals of care which correspond to reasonable standards of dental practice.

The schedule is not intended to prescribe by whom the services should be provided particularly for Medicaid eligible infants and toddlers under age 3. This will be determined by other factors including local community capacity to provide care to preschool Medicaid children.

The DMA Oral Health Periodicity Schedule can be modified for children with special health care needs or if disease or trauma contributes to variations from the norm.

North Carolina's Oral Health Periodicity Schedule.

| RECOMMENDATIONS | AGE | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | <i>Birth through 12 months</i> | <i>12 through 24 months</i> | <i>2+ years through 6 years</i> | <i>6+ years through 12 years</i> | <i>12 + years</i> |
| <i>Clinical Oral Evaluation</i> ^{1, 2} | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Assess Oral Growth and Development</i> ³ | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Caries Risk Assessment</i> ^{4, 5} | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Radiographic Assessment</i> ⁶ | | | * | * | * |
| <i>Prophylaxis and Topical Fluoride</i> ^{5, 6} | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Fluoride Supplementation</i> ^{7, 8} | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Anticipatory Guidance / Counseling</i> ⁹ | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Oral Hygiene Counseling</i> ¹⁰ | Parent/Care-giver | Parent/Care-giver | Patient and Parent/Caregiver | Patient and Parent/Caregiver | Patient |
| <i>Dietary Counseling</i> ¹¹ | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Injury Prevention Counseling</i> ¹² | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Counseling for Non-nutritive Habits</i> ¹³ | * | * | * | * | * |
| <i>Assessment for Substance Abuse Counseling Referral</i> | | | | * | * |
| <i>Periodontal Assessment</i> ^{5, 6} | | | | * | * |
| <i>Assessment for Developing Malocclusion</i> | | | * | * | * |
| <i>Assessment for Pit and Fissure Sealants</i> ¹⁴ | | | * | * | * |
| <i>Assessment and/or Removal of 3rd Molars</i> | | | | | * |
| <i>Transition to Adult Dental Care</i> | | | | | * |
| <i>Referral to Primary Care Physician, ad lib</i> | * | * | | | |

North Carolina's Oral Health Periodicity Schedule.

- 1** The Primary Care Physician/Pediatrician/Dentist should perform the first/initial oral health screening following AAP/AAPD guidelines
 - 2** An oral evaluation should be done by the Primary Care Physician/Pediatrician/Dentist up to age 3. Every infant should receive an oral health risk assessment from his/her primary health care provider or qualified health care professional by 6 months of age that includes: (1) assessing the patient's risk of developing oral disease using an accepted caries-risk assessment tool; (2) providing education on infant oral health; and (3) evaluating and optimizing fluoride exposure. The evaluation should include an assessment of pathology and injuries.
 - 3** By clinical examination
 - 4** All children should be referred to a dentist for the establishment of a dental home no later than age 3 and by 12 months of age if possible. Children determined by the PCP/Pediatrician to be at risk for early childhood caries (ECC) should be referred to a dentist as early as 6 months, after the first tooth erupts, or 12 months of age (whichever comes first) for establishment of a dental home. Children at risk for ECC are defined as:
 - Children with special health care needs
 - Children of mothers with a high caries rate
 - Children with demonstrable caries, heavy plaque, and demineralization ("white spot lesions")
 - Children who sleep with a bottle or breastfeed throughout the night
 - Once dental care is established with a dental professional, it is recommended that every child enrolled in Medicaid see the dentist for routine care every six months.
 - 5** Must be repeated at regular intervals to maximize effectiveness.
 - 6** Timing, selection and frequency determined by child's history, clinical findings, susceptibility to oral disease and the child's ability to cooperate with the procedure.
 - 7** Consider when systemic fluoride exposure is suboptimal.
 - 8** Up to at least age 16.
 - 9** Appropriate oral health discussion and counseling should be an integral part of each visit for care.
 - 10** Initially, responsibility of parent; as child develops, joint responsibility with parent; then when indicated, responsibility lies with child
 - 11** At every appointment; initially discuss appropriate feeding practices, the role of refined carbohydrates and frequency of snacking in caries development and childhood obesity
 - 12** Initial discussions should include play objects, pacifiers, and car seats; when learning to walk, include injury prevention. For school-age children and adolescent patients, counsel regarding routine playing and sports, including the importance of mouthguards.
 - 13** At first, discuss the need for additional sucking: digits vs. pacifiers; then the need to wean from the habit before malocclusion or skeletal dysplasia occurs. For school- aged children and adolescent patients, counsel regarding any existing parafunctional habits such as fingernail biting, clenching or bruxism.
 - 14** For caries-susceptible primary and permanent molars; placed as soon as possible after eruption.
- Note: Please refer to DMA Clinical Coverage Policy No. 4A -- Dental Services for covered services and limitations.

North Carolina's Oral Health Periodicity Schedule.

REFERENCES FOR ORAL HEALTH PERIODICITY SCHEDULE

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, "Policy Statement on Oral Health Risk Assessment Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home", *Pediatrics*, 111(5):1113-16 (2003).
2. *Guide to Children's Dental Care in Medicaid*, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Oct. 2004), available at: <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/benefits/downloads/child-dental-guide.pdf>
3. Cruz GG, Rozier RG, and Slade G, "Dental Screening and Referral of Young Children by Pediatric Primary Care Providers," *Pediatrics*, 114(5):642-52 (Nov. 2004)
4. Scale NS and Casamassimo PS, "Access to Dental Care for Children in the United States: A Survey of General Practitioners," *JADA*, 134:1630-1640 (Dec. 2003)
5. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, *Policy on Use of a Caries-risk Assessment Tool (CAT) for Infants, Children and Adolescents* Originating Council, Council on Clinical Affairs, Adopted 2002, Revised 2006, available at: http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_CariesRiskAssess.pdf
6. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, *Guideline on Periodicity of Examination, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance/Counseling, and Oral Treatment for Infants, Children and Adolescents* Originating Council, Council on Clinical Affairs, Revised 2009, available at: http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G.pdf
7. Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics, *Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care*, American Academy of Pediatrics (2008), available at: https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/Periodicity/Periodicity%20Schedule_FINAL.pdf

Immunizations

All necessary immunizations *must* be administered by the provider delivering the *Health Check* periodic or inter-periodic Well Child visit. The immunization portion of the well child visit *may not be referred to another provider*, i.e. local health departments.

The most current *Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 through 18: United States*, approved by the **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)**, **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, and the **American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)** may be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Laboratory Procedures

Certain laboratory procedures are required at designated ages, including screens for newborn metabolic/sickle cell disease, hemoglobin or hematocrit and blood lead.

Medicaid will not reimburse separately for routine laboratory tests (Hemoglobin/Hematocrit and Tuberculin skin test) when performed during a ***Health Check*** Early Periodic Screening visit. Other laboratory tests, including, but not limited to, blood lead screening, dyslipidemia screening, pregnancy testing and sexually transmitted disease screening for sexually active youth, may be performed and billed when medically necessary.

Newborn Metabolic/Sickle Cell Screening

North Carolina hospitals are required to screen all newborns *prior to discharge from the hospital* for sickle cell disease and a number of other genetic and metabolic conditions. **Those results from the State Laboratory of Public Health must be documented in the child's medical record as soon as possible.** This ideally should be a print-out of the results from the state lab's website for that child.

The *State Laboratory of Public Health* website may be found at:

<http://slph.ncpublichealth.com>

It is important to confirm **no later than one month of age** that the newborn metabolic/sickle cell screening has been done. Results are available online to healthcare providers by 2 weeks of age in most cases. Contact the hospital of birth if the results are not available online to confirm that the screening was done. An infant without documentation of screening at birth should have the screening test completed as soon as possible. A newborn metabolic screen cannot be done by the *State Laboratory of Public Health* after 6 months of age.

Resources available to you if a screening test is positive include the **NC Newborn Screening Follow-up Coordinator** at 919-707-5634 or the **Children with Special Health Care Needs Help Line** at 1-800-737-3028, and the **N.C. Sickle Cell Program** at:

<http://www.ncsicklecellprogram.org/resources.asp>

Tuberculin Tests

While tuberculosis in the United States decreased from 3.8 to 3.0 per 100,000 between 2009 and 2014, (the North Carolina rate went from 2.7 to 2, a 26% decline) vigilance by providers is essential. A full report of incidence/prevalence of tuberculosis in North Carolina may be found at:

<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/tb/figures/tbannual2014.pdf>

The **North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Branch** criteria for screening children and adolescents of all ages are as follows:

- 1) Children or adolescents reasonably suspected of having tuberculosis disease based on clinical symptoms should have a baseline screen.
- 2) Children or adolescents who present for care with the following risk factors should have a **baseline screen**:
 - a) Foreign-born individuals from high prevalence areas: Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Mexico, South America, Pacific Islands, the Middle East or Eastern Europe. (Low prevalence countries for tuberculosis disease are the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and countries in Western Europe.)
 - b) Children or adolescents who are migrants, seasonal farm workers, homeless or who were previously incarcerated.

- c) Children or adolescents who are HIV positive.
- d) Children or adolescents who use/inject illegal substances/drugs.
- e) Children or adolescents who have traveled outside of the US and who have stayed in a high incidence area.
- f) Children or adolescents who live with family or friends who have lived in high-incidence areas.
- g) Children or adolescents who have been exposed to high –risk adults (those who have been homeless, incarcerated, are HIV positive or who have a past/present history of substance abuse).

Routine TB screening (screening without the presence of at least one of the screening criteria listed by the North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Branch) is not recommended. When a risk factor is identified, the provider shall document it, along with the outcome of TB testing in the beneficiary's medical record.

TB testing should be performed for children and adolescents at increased risk of exposure to tuberculosis **via the Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) intradermal injection/Mantoux method** (not the Tine ® Test). An interferon gamma release assay (blood test, either **Quantiferon Gold in-tube®** test or **T-SPOT TB® test**) can be used in place of the tuberculin skin test. Subsequent TB skin testing (or blood testing) is not necessary unless there is a continuing risk of exposure to persons with tuberculosis disease.

The **North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Branch** (919-733-7286) is responsible for oversight of testing of household and other close contacts of active cases of pulmonary and laryngeal tuberculosis. Questions related to policy interpretation or other questions related to TB skin testing should be directed to the local health departments.

Sexually Transmitted Infections/Diseases:

Providers are encouraged to follow the most recent ***CDC Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines*** for screening and treatment of adolescents:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/default.htm>

Same Day Health Check Wellness Visits and Sick Child (E/M) Encounters

When Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age receiving a preventive screen also *require* evaluation and management of a focused complaint, the provider may deliver all medically necessary care and submit a claim for both the preventive service (CPT 9938x / 9939x) and the appropriate level of E/M service (CPT 9920x/9921x).

Beginning with services rendered after July 1, 2016, the provider need not submit additional documentation of medical necessity to the fiscal agent in order to reprocess a claim for the service rendered to treat the focused problem. All requirements in this section regarding documentation of the additional, focused service must be adhered to by the provider.

The E/M service must report only the additional time required to manage the focused complaint. The provider's electronic signature on the claim is the attestation of the medical necessity of both services.

Requirements for providing Preventive and Focused Problem (E/M) care same day:

- Provider documentation **must** support billing of both services. Providers **must** create separate notes for each service rendered in order to document medical necessity.
- In deciding on appropriate E/M level of service rendered, only activity performed “above and beyond” that already performed during the ***Health Check*** wellness visit is to be used to calculate the additional level of E/M service. If any portion of the history or exam was performed to satisfy the preventive service, that same portion of work should not be used to calculate the additional level of E/M service.
- All elements supporting the additional E/M service must be apparent to an outside reader/reviewer.
- The note documenting the focused (E/M) encounter should contain a separate history of present illness (HPI) paragraph that clearly describes the specific condition requiring evaluation and management.
- The documentation must clearly list in the assessment the acute/chronic condition(s) being managed at the time of the encounter.

Modifier 25 must be appended to the appropriate E/M code. Modifier 25 indicates that ‘the patient’s condition required *a significant, separately identifiable E/M service* above and beyond the other service provided’.

Anticipatory Guidance and Health Education

Anticipatory guidance and health education that are age appropriate and targeted to address a number of topics and needs over time should be a part of every *Health Check Well Child* visit.

The *Bright Futures* Pocket Guide provides a quick reference tool for anticipatory guidance topics by age, and can be found by visiting:

[https://brightfutures.aap.org/bright Futures Documents/BF3 pocket guide final.pdf](https://brightfutures.aap.org/bright%20Futures%20Documents/BF3%20pocket%20guide%20final.pdf)

Follow-Up and Referral

In a family-centered medical home, the health care team works in partnership with a child and a child's family to assure that all of the medical and non-medical needs of the child are met. To assure continuity of care, if the *Health Check* screening assessment is not performed in the child's medical home, then the results of the visit and recommendations for follow-up should be shared in a timely manner with the child's medical home.

For children and youth with suspected or identified problems that are not treated in-house by the provider of the *Health Check* visit, those children and youth must be referred to and receive consultation from an appropriate source. A requirement of *Health Check* /EPSDT is that children be referred for and receive medically necessary health care services to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a screening assessment.

If a communicable disease has been diagnosed, report the disease using the *Confidential Communicable Disease Report – Part 1* Form at:

http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/docs/dhhs_2124.pdf

Providers must indicate referrals by listing Indicator ‘E’ on Claim Line:

- Claims submitted via NCTracks should list referral code indicator “E” when a referral is made for follow-up on a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a Health Check screening assessment.
- Claim submissions should include referral code indicator “F” when a referral is made for Family Planning services.

Providers should assist with planning for the youth’s transition from pediatric to adult health care, encouraging their involvement in health care decision making, and supporting the parent’s role in promoting the development of the youth’s self-management skills.

Finally, providers should discuss timing for the next *Health Check* screening assessment appointment and schedule a visit, if appropriate.

Transition resources for families who have youth with special health care needs are available at:

<http://www.gottransition.org/>

and at:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/Helping-Adolescents-Transition-to-Adult-Health-Care.aspx?nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR:+No+local+token>

Section III: Blood Lead Testing

General Discussion:

Primary prevention of lead exposure/poisoning aims to minimize children's risks for its neurodevelopmental effects and behavioral disorders through source control and early detection. Screening of North Carolina's child Medicaid beneficiaries and early identification of those at risk for lead exposure should occur during periodic Wellness ("Health Check") visits.

Following recommendations of the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention** and "*Bright Futures*" guidelines of the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, Medicaid requires that all enrolled infants and young children receive a blood lead screen as follows:

- Screen infants with a blood lead test by 12 months of age (or earlier, if indicated),
- Screen children with a blood lead test at 24 months,
- Screen children ages 36-72 months if not previously tested or if test results aren't documented.

Medical follow-up begins with a blood lead level greater than or equal to 5µg/dL. Capillary blood level samples are adequate for the initial testing. Venous blood level samples should be collected for confirmation of all blood lead test results $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$.

| <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX</p> | |
|--|--|
| Blood Lead Level | Response (Clinical and environmental follow-up is based on the rounded test result.) |
| <p><5 µg/dL</p> <p>(reported result less than 4.50 µg/dL)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources, environmental assessment & prevention of lead exposure • Perform <u>another</u> blood lead test at age 2, earlier if risk of exposure increases |
| <p><i>All diagnostic (i.e., confirmation) tests should be performed as soon as possible within the time periods listed below.</i></p> <p>If diagnostic test result falls into a lower category - follow response for that risk category.</p> <p>If diagnostic <u>or</u> follow-up test result falls in a higher category – conduct <u>another</u> (venous) diagnostic test based on the higher risk category & follow response for that risk category.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Continued from previous page)</p> | |
| <p>5-9 µg/dL</p> <p>(reported result 4.50- 9.49 µg/dL)</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 3 months)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources, environmental assessment & prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 5-9 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to the WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify lead sources & emphasize the importance of environmental assessment to identify and mitigate lead hazards • Continue follow-up testing every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL • Test other children under the age of six in same household |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>10-19 µg/dL (reported result 9.50- 19.49 µg/dL)</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 1 month)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 10-19 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to the WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for environmental investigation • <i>Continue follow-up testing every 1-3 months until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL</i> • Test other children under the age of six in same household |
| <p>20-69 µg/dL (reported result 19.50- 69.49 µg/dL)</p> <p>(Diagnostic test within 1 week at 20- 44 µg/dL</p> <p>within 48 hours at 45-59 µg/dL</p> <p>within 24 hours at 60-69 µg/dL)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is 20-69 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to the WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for required environmental investigation • Provide clinical management • Refer children to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate • Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional medical assistance • <i>Continue follow-up testing every 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL</i> • Test other children under the age of six in same household |

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX

(Continued from previous page)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">≥70 µg/dL</p> <p>(reported result greater than or equal to 69.50 µg/dL)</p> <p>(Diagnostic test immediately as emergency lab test)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report blood lead test result to parent & document notification • Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure <p>If diagnostic test result is ≥70 µg/dL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitalize child and begin medical treatment immediately • Conduct nutritional assessment and refer to the WIC Program • Take environmental history to identify sources of lead exposure • Refer to local health department for required environmental investigation • Refer children to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate • Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional medical assistance • <i>Continue follow-up testing every 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are <5 µg/dL</i> • Test other children under the age of six in same household |
|---|---|

State Laboratory of Public Health and Blood Lead Testing

The State Laboratory of Public Health will analyze blood lead specimens for all children less than six years of age as well as refugee children less than 16 years of age at no charge. Providers requiring results from specimens of children outside this age group should contact the State Laboratory of Public Health at 919-807-8878. **Lead testing results also can be obtained at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health Clinical Lab Result Reporting; at the following web address indicated below.**

<https://slphreporting.ncpublichealth.com/lims/ClinicalLims/Login.aspx>

Records are retained at the State Laboratory for two years and are filed by date of receipt in the Laboratory. **For additional information about lead testing and follow-up refer to the North Carolina Childhood Lead Testing and Follow Up Manual, found at:**

<http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/hhccehb/cehu/lead/docs/2016ClinicalTrainingManualFINAL042116.pdf>

Provider Reimbursement when using Point of Care (POC) Lead Analyzer Laboratories

Summary:

- Providers using POC lead analyzers must enroll in and meet requirements of **CLIA**, must follow all **North Carolina Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** (NC CLPPP) / Follow-up Recommendations, and must comply with North Carolina blood lead test reporting requirements (G.S. § 130A-131.5 to 131.8).
- Providers who use, **CLIA** approved/waived point of care (POC) units may bill one unit CPT 83655 with EP modifier when the screen is administered during a Health Check Wellness Visit.
- A Blood Lead screen may be conducted and billed in other encounters, per applicable billing instructions, when examination findings indicate risk for lead exposure, and when findings are documented in the medical record.
- NC Medicaid may conduct retrospective reviews to ensure that providers have met all mandatory requirements when conducting and billing for blood lead tests. Providers not complying with all enrollment and reporting requirements listed above are subject to recoupment and other actions as specified in state statute and in the provider's Medicaid agreement.

Discussion:

Use of Point of Care (POC) Lead Analyzers and Public Health Implications

North Carolina Medicaid supports the use of POC blood lead analyzers for conducting initial blood lead screens *only*. Current POC technologies do not support their use for definitive diagnostics. Definitive diagnostics require that a venous sample be evaluated by an appropriately licensed/certified diagnostic laboratory.

North Carolina state law requires two *consecutive* elevated test results prior to initiating follow-up services. As POC analyzers provide a rapid screen result, a second (diagnostic) *venous* blood lead sample can usually be collected before the child leaves the provider's office, expediting ordering of follow-up treatment and services.

Capillary blood lead samples are acceptable for the *initial* blood lead screen. **A venous blood lead sample is appropriate subsequent to a positive screen finding, for the purpose of diagnostic evaluation.** The sample should be collected **as soon as possible** for confirmation of all initial blood lead screen results ≥ 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g/dL}$). The second, venous sample must be evaluated using a high complexity laboratory methodology, prior to initiating an environmental investigation or medical management.

A venous sample should also be drawn and evaluated when a diagnostic or follow-up test result falls in a higher risk category.

Federal and State Requirements for Childhood Blood Lead Testing

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised the definition for elevated blood lead level (BLL) for children in the US. The revised definition emphasizes focus of the **CDC Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP)** on primary prevention of lead poisoning. In addition, the ACCLPP recommends that clinicians

educate families about prevention of lead exposure and provide environmental assessments to identify sources of lead exposure before testing children for lead poisoning.

The revised reference value (5 mcg/dL (0.24 micromol/L) is based on the 97.5th percentile of the BLL distribution among children one to five years of age. Any test result equal to or greater than 5 µg/dL obtained by capillary specimen should be confirmed using a *venous blood sample*. A clinical laboratory licensed by the **Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments** of 1988 (**CLIA**) must be used for diagnostic blood lead analysis. Medical necessity for a second, diagnostic test is based on the *rounded* test result. For example, test results between 4.5 to 4.9 µg/dL should be rounded up to 5 µg/dL.

POC Lead Analyzer Laboratory Requirements

Facilities using a POC lead analyzer need to be aware that **CLIA** designates them as a laboratory. Therefore, all POC laboratories must enroll in and meet requirements of **CLIA**, *and must*:

- follow all **North Carolina Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP)** testing, and follow-up recommendations,
- comply with North Carolina blood lead test reporting requirements (**G.S. § 130A-131.5 to 131.8**).

Please note that our state requirements go beyond the minimum requirements set forth by **CLIA** or the **Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA)**.

Statutory Reporting Requirements for Blood Lead Testing

State law requires laboratories to electronically submit all blood lead test results for children within five working days after test completion to the **Division of Public Health**. File submission is mandatory, and providers using POC lead analyzer laboratories must comply. Violations of state statute may result in legal actions as defined by the statute and in recoupment of the claim.

Diagnostic Testing Following a Positive Screen

POC blood lead analyzers have a limit of detection of 3.3 µg/dL. Because of limitations at lower blood lead levels, both *the manufacturer and the CDC do not sanction POC analyzers for diagnostic testing*. Therefore, the state requires the immediate collection of a diagnostic specimen for analysis by an outside reference laboratory, *without any repeat analysis using the POC analyzer* before sending the diagnostic specimen out.

For diagnostic testing, CLIA certified laboratories must use a “high complexity” laboratory analysis.

State Laboratory of Public Health (State Lab) will analyze blood lead specimens for all children less than six years of age (and refugee children through 16 years). Providers are encouraged to utilize the State Lab as it expedites test result reporting.

Provider Billing for POC Lead Analyzers and Follow-up Diagnostic Tests

Providers using a POC lead analyzer may bill the usual and customary charge for the blood lead analysis using CPT code 83655. When the screen is performed as part of an Early Periodic Screening (‘Health Check’) visit, an EP modifier is to be included on the appropriate claim line of the billing detail. Diagnostic (confirmation) tests may be analyzed by the State Laboratory or other **CLIA** certified laboratory only. Tests for purposes other than screening **may not** be performed by the POC Lead Analyzer.

North Carolina General Statute § 130A-131.8. Laboratory Reports

All laboratories doing business in this State shall report to the Department all environmental lead test results and blood lead test results for children less than six years of age and for individuals whose ages are unknown at the time of testing. Reports shall be made by electronic submission within five working days after test completion.

Reports of blood lead test results shall contain all of the following:

- The child's full name, date of birth, sex, race, ethnicity, address, and Medicaid number, if any.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the requesting health care provider.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the testing laboratory.
- The laboratory results, whether the specimen type is venous or capillary; the laboratory sample number, and the dates the sample was collected and analyzed.

Additionally, POC lead analyzer laboratories must maintain documentation of instrument calibration and quality control testing, dates blood lead test result files are submitted to the state, and outside reference laboratory used for analysis of diagnostic tests.

Additional Resources

For more information about blood lead testing guidelines and reporting requirements, providers can consult the following websites and documents:

[NC General Statute for Lead Poisoning in Children G.S. § 130A-131.5 to 131.8](#) (See p.1-4)

[CDC Recommendations for Revised Blood Lead Testing Follow-up Schedule](#) (2 pages)

[NC Childhood Lead Testing and Follow-up Manual](#)

[NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Resources](#)

[NC State Laboratory of Public Health](#)

Section IV: Administration of Brief Screening Tools for Developmental, Emotional/Behavioral and Other Health Risks

North Carolina Medicaid has aligned **CPT Codes 96110, 96127 and 99420** with current **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** guidance and CPT definitions. This *Health Check Billing Guide* section provides information on administration and billing of health risk, developmental, and emotional/behavioral screens consistent with newest coding definitions, for Medicaid beneficiaries under 21 years of age.

Surveillance

The *Bright Futures Guidelines* of the **American Academy of Pediatrics** recommend that providers conduct routine surveillance of all children (including pre-teens and adolescents).

Face-to-face surveillance activities include:

- Eliciting and attending to parents' concerns about their child's development,
- updating the child's developmental progress,
- making accurate and informed observations of the child in the areas appropriate to the child's age and developmental stage, including;
 - language and cognitive abilities,
 - physical, social and emotional health and,
 - growth and development,
- identifying both risk and protective factors, including environmental factors, and,
- documenting all surveillance activities and findings.

Surveillance of risks to normal and healthy growth and development in children is an essential component of every preventive health and wellness visit for Medicaid beneficiaries. For Medicaid beneficiaries, surveillance is a required element of the **Early Preventive Screening (Health Check) Well Child** visit, per federal Medicaid and **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)** regulations found at **42 U.S.C.1396 et seq./ §1905(r) of the Social Security Act.**

The 2016 in *Bright Futures “Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care”* references **AAP’s 2006 Policy Statement** highlighting the central importance of surveillance:

“Early identification of developmental disorders is critical to the well-being of children and their families. It is an integral function of the primary care medical home and an appropriate responsibility of all pediatric health care professionals.”

The authors recommend that developmental surveillance be incorporated at every well-child preventive care visit. *Any concerns raised during surveillance should be promptly addressed with standardized developmental screening tests.* In addition, screening tests should be administered regularly at the 9-, 18- and 30- month visit.

The early identification of developmental problems should lead to further developmental and medical evaluation, diagnosis and treatment, including early developmental intervention.”

The full AAP reference may be found at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/118/1/405.full.pdf>

This activity is considered incidental to performance of a wellness exam and is included in the fee for the office visit.

General Guidance on Use of Structured Screening Tools

According to the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, structured screening entails the use of standardized and scientifically validated tools designed to identify risk for developmental delay or for behavioral/emotional problems. As additional research, data analysis and validation is conducted, current tools may become outdated and new tools may become available. Providers are responsible for ensuring the use of up-to-date, scientifically validated structured screens.

N.C. Medicaid reimburses providers for services delivered directly ** to an eligible beneficiary, including screening and counseling services.

**** Note:** Providers, please review guidance on “Maternal Depression Screening” for a general rule exception.

When billing NC Medicaid or North Carolina *Health Choice* for any coverable brief screen, the child’s medical record must include:

- documentation indicating the date on which the test was performed,
- standardized tool used,
- screening result/score
- guidance given and,
- referrals made.

Specific Screens

Screening for Maternal Postpartum Depression

CPT 99420

- *Administration of a Health risk assessment, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument*

The **American Academy of Pediatrics**, through its “*Bright Futures*” publication, recommends screening for maternal depression as a standard of pediatric best practice. **CMS**, on May 11th, 2016 released their *Informational Bulletin*, supporting coverage of Maternal Depression Screens by State Medicaid Agencies.

North Carolina’s ***Health Check*** Program supports both the early identification of risk for maternal depression during well-child visits in the first year postpartum *and* the practitioner’s referral of at-risk mothers to appropriate resources for support and treatment.

Beginning on July 1st, 2016, providers may administer up to 4 risk screens (**AAP** recommends at the 1, 2, 4, and 6 month visits) for maternal depression for mothers during the infant’s first year (12 months) postpartum. Providers are instructed by **CMS** to use CPT code 99420 (Health Risk Screen), one (1) unit per administration, with EP modifier when billing for this service. When the screen is conducted as part of a ***Health Check*** wellness visit, this screen may be billed to the infant’s Medicaid coverage.

Providers should carefully review this Billing Guide’s section on “***General Guidance on Use of Structured Screening Tools***” and follow all documentation requirements.

Suggested Screening Tools for Maternal Depression

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided examples of scientifically validated tools which screen for risk of maternal depression at:

<https://brightfutures.aap.org/materials-and-tools/tool-and-resource-kit/Pages/Developmental-Behavioral-Psychosocial-Screening-and-Assessment-Forms.aspx>

| Instrument | Abbreviation |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale | N/A |

The use of a particular scientifically validated tool is a provider’s decision, and this list does not constitute endorsement or preference of any screening tool.

Screens for ‘Healthy Development’ and Required Screening for Autism and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

CPT 96110

- *“Developmental screening (e.g., developmental milestone survey, speech and language delay screen), with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument.”*

Please Note: *This code definition was revised in 2015 to more clearly define its use. Please review current CPT and CMS guidance on this code.*

CMS has directed that **CPT Code 96110** be used to report screening for healthy physical development (speech and language development, physical growth). These screens may be administered during preventive service encounters (9938x / 9939x), at “sick child” visits or during Evaluation and Management (E/M) visits. These screens may be billed to N.C. Medicaid using **CPT code 96110**. Medicaid will reimburse for **CPT 96110** to a maximum of two units of per visit for children 5 years of age and younger.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that an average of 1 in 88 children in the United States is challenged by an autism spectrum disorder. N.C. Medicaid follows **AAP Bright Futures** recommendations for conducting structured risk screens during Early Periodic (*Health Check*) wellness visits.

Screening for developmental delays, including autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASD), should occur at the visit times indicated below:

- Visits at 6 months, 12 months, 18 *or* 24 months, 3 years, 4 years, and 5 years of age may include structured screening for developmental delays.

- Providers **must** perform routine screening for ASD at 18 and 24 months of age per federal Medicaid requirements.
- A screen may be administered at a “catch-up” visit if the 18- or 24-month visit was missed.

Providers may screen for developmental risk at ages greater than 30 months when the provider or caregiver has concerns about the child. The structured screening tool should be validated for the child’s chronological age.

Findings supporting use of a developmental screen may include:

- observed difficulties in responsiveness, age-appropriated interaction or communication,
- a report by parent or caregiver, or,
- diagnosis of an ASD in a sibling.

Suggested Developmental Screening Tools

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided the following examples of scientifically validated tools which screen for developmental risk. The use of a particular scientifically validated tool is a provider’s decision, and this list does not constitute endorsement or preference of any screening tool.

| Instrument | Abbreviation |
|---|---------------------|
| Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Third Edition | ASQ - 3 |
| Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers | M-CHAT (R/F) |
| Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status | PEDS or PEDS-DM |

Modifiers Required on Claim Details When Entering CPT 96110

Providers must **always use CPT Code 96110 and EP modifier** when conducting required screens for Autism and ASD.

Screening for Emotional / Behavioral Health Risks

CPT 96127

- *Brief emotional/behavioral assessment, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument.*

In January 2015, CMS added a “brief emotional/behavioral assessment with scoring and documentation” in response to the Affordable Care Act’s federal mandate to include mental health services as part of the essential benefits in all insurance plans offered in individual and small group markets.

CPT code 96127 should be used to report the administration of a structured screen for emotional and behavioral health risks, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, suicidal risk, anxiety, substance abuse and eating disorders, when their use is indicated by guidelines of clinical best practice and surveillance. Medicaid will reimburse providers for **CPT code 96127** to a maximum of two units per visit.

Modifiers Required on Claim Details When Entering CPT 96127

- The **EP** modifier should always accompany the code when a **Medicaid beneficiary** under 21 years old receives an emotional/behavioral health screen in a preventive service, sick child or E/M encounter.

Suggested Screening Tools for Behavioral/Emotional Health Risks

The American Academy of Pediatrics lists the following screens for emotional/behavioral health risks. The use of a particular scientifically validated tool is a provider's decision, and this list does not constitute endorsement or preference of any screening tool.

| Instrument | Abbreviation |
|--|---------------|
| Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional | ASQ – SE |
| Australian Scale for Asperger's Syndrome | ASAS |
| Beck Youth Inventories: Second Edition | BYI-II |
| Behavior Assessment Scale for Children: Second Edition | BASC-2 |
| Behavioral Rating Inventory of Executive Function | BRIEF |
| Brigance Screens II | n/a |
| Brief Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Assessment | BITSEA |
| Conner's Rating Scale | n/a |
| Kutcher Adolescent Depression Rating Scale | n/a |
| Patient Health Questionnaire: | PHQ-2 / PHQ-9 |
| Pediatric Symptom Checklist | PSC |
| Pediatric Symptom Checklist – Youth Report | Y-PSC |
| Screen for Childhood Anxiety Related Disorders | SCARED |
| Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire | SDQ |
| Substance Abuse and Alcohol Abuse Screening | CRAFFT |
| Vanderbilt Rating Scales | n/a |

The 2016 in *Bright Futures “Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care”* recommends, but does not require, psychosocial/behavioral assessment at every Early Periodic Screening (*Health Check*) visit. North Carolina Medicaid will reimburse providers for

administration of up to two units of psychosocial screening (CPT 96127) per visit. All documentation requirements for administration of screens apply.

Screening for Adolescent Health Risks

CPT 99420

- *Administration of a Health risk assessment, with scoring and documentation, per standardized instrument*

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends use of an adolescent health risk assessment tool to screen for a variety of possible psychosocial and health risks and strengths in adolescents, ages 11 years and older.

Risks include, but are not limited to,

- alcohol and drug use,
- low self-esteem,
- tobacco use,
- sexually transmitted infections,
- pregnancy,
- violence,
- injury,
- poor nutrition and physical activity.

Strengths include, but are not limited to,

- good nutrition,
- positive relationships with peers,

- some mastery of a skill, talent or sport,
- family supports, school engagement / community involvement, and,
- delay of sexual activity.

For health risk screens in adolescents (youth aged 11 years or older) **CPT code 99420** (Health Risk Assessment) may be reported when conducting a health risk screen for an adolescent (a Medicaid or NC *Health Choice* Beneficiary 11 years of age and older). Medicaid reimburses providers for **CPT code 99420** to a maximum of two units per visit.

Modifiers Required on Claim Details When Entering CPT 99420

- The **EP** modifier must be used with the code when a **Medicaid beneficiary** ages 11 through 20 years old receives a health risk screen in a preventive service, sick child or E/M encounter.
- CPT 99420 may not be used to indicate use of a CRAFFT (CPT 96127) brief screen.

Suggested Screening Tools for Adolescent Health Risk

The American Academy of Pediatrics has provided the following examples of scientifically validated tools which screen for adolescent health risks. The use of a particular scientifically validated tool is a provider's decision, and this list does not constitute endorsement or preference of any screening tool.

| Instrument | Abbreviation |
|---|---------------------|
| Bright Futures Supplemental Adolescent Questionnaire | na |
| Guidelines for Adolescent Preventive Services | GAPS |
| HEADSS Adolescent Risk Assessment | HEADSS |

Other Screening-Related Services for Adolescents

Smoking Cessation Screens/Intervention: Adolescents 11 through 20 Years of Age

CPT 99406:

- *Smoking and Tobacco Cessation Counseling Visit:* Intermediate, greater than 3 minutes, up to 10 minutes.

CPT 99407:

- *Smoking and Tobacco Cessation Counseling Visit:* Intensive, Greater than 10 Minutes.

This code indicates that **counseling** was provided for smoking cessation. **Providers may bill the above codes only when counseling is provided *directly* to the beneficiary.** The CPT code is only appropriate for use when **the patient** is receiving the counseling for tobacco use.

Modifiers Required on Claim Details When Entering CPT 99406-99407

For Medicaid beneficiaries 11 years through 20 years of age receiving counseling for smoking/tobacco cessation as part of a Health Check Wellness Visit, sick child or E/M visit, the code should be accompanied by **modifier 25** to indicate that a separate and identifiable service was delivered in addition to the visit. When the service is provided as part of a Health Check Early Periodic Screening visit, the **EP modifier** must be appended.

Providers should always include documentation in the beneficiary's medical record noting the intervention, patient response and current status, follow up plan and referrals.

Alcohol Structured Screens/Intervention: Adolescents 11 through 20 Years of Age

CPT 99408

- *Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; 15 to 30 minutes*

CPT 99409

- *Alcohol and/or substance (other than tobacco) abuse structured screening and brief intervention services; greater than 30 minutes*

Note: A brief screen alone (CRAFT) is to be identified and billed using **CPT 96127**.

Providers may bill the above codes only when alcohol and/or substance abuse counseling is provided *directly* to the beneficiary. The CPT code definition indicates that the patient is receiving **both a screen and counseling** for alcohol use.

Modifiers Required on Claim Details When Entering CPT 99408-99409

For Medicaid beneficiaries 11 years through 20 years of age receiving alcohol and/or substance abuse counseling as part of a **Health Check** Early Periodic Screening visit, sick child or E/M visit, the code should be accompanied by **modifier 25** to indicate that a separate and identifiable service was delivered in addition to the visit. When the service is provided as part of a **Health Check** Early Periodic Screening visit, the **EP modifier** must be appended.

For any screen, the provider must document the screening tool used, the results of the screening tool, the discussion with parents, and any referrals made.

For more information:

- The Bright Futures Tool Kit/GAPS/HEADSSS is available at:

<https://brightfutures.aap.org/materials-and-tools/tool-and-resource-kit/Pages/default.aspx>

- Find the AAP Mental Health Initiatives site and the AAP Mental Health Toolkit at:

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Mental-Health/Pages/Primary-Care-Tools.aspx>

- Find out more about scientifically validated emotional/behavioral brief screens at:

https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Mental-Health/Documents/MH_ScreeningChart.pdf

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Mental-Health/Pages/Addressing-Mental-Health-Concerns-in-Primary-Care-A-Clinicians-Toolkit.aspx>

- Additional information on developmental screening tools is available at:

https://brightfutures.aap.org/Bright%20Futures%20Documents/Developmental_Screening_Tools.pdf

- Information from the Center for Disease Control may be accessed at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/screening.html>

- For more information, about Alcohol and Substance Abuse Screening and Brief Intervention (CRAFFT) go to:

<http://www.ceasar-boston.org/CRAFFT/index.php>

Section V: Immunizations

The immunization administration codes currently covered are CPT procedure codes 90460 and 90471 through 90474:

| Procedure Code | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 90460 | Immunization administration through 18 years of age via any route of administration, with counseling by physician or other qualified health care professional; first or only component of each vaccine or toxoid administered |
| 90471 | Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); one vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) |
| 90472+ (add-on-code) | Immunization administration (includes percutaneous, intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections); one vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) List separately in addition to code for primary procedure |
| 90473 | Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; one vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) |
| 90474+* (add-on-code) | Immunization administration by intranasal or oral route; each additional vaccine (single or combination vaccine/toxoid) List separately in addition to code for primary procedure |

*** Please Note:**

- No intranasal vaccines are currently coverable per NCIP/VFC program.
- Currently, 90474 cannot be billed with 90473 as there are no two oral and/or intranasal vaccines or combination of an oral and intranasal vaccine that would be given to a recipient.
- 90460 is a stand-alone immunization administration code and does not have any add-on-codes for additional vaccines. Additional vaccines can be billed with either the 90471/90472 series or billing 90460 multiple times (e.g. 90460 X 2) on the claim detail line.
- *Always append EP modifier to **all vaccine codes**, including 90460.*
- For all vaccines administered after October 1, 2015, providers should use ICD 10-CM code Z23.

Coding for Vaccine Administration

General Coding Guidance

- Administration codes covered for Medicaid recipients in the Health Check age range, 0 through 20 years of age, are CPT codes 90471 through 90474 and 90460.
- Providers must bill the appropriate number of units on the detail along with the total charge of **all** units billed for that code.
- An immunization administration fee may be billed if it is the only service provided that day or if any immunizations are provided in addition to a Health Check assessment or an office or sick child visit. When billing in conjunction with an examination code or an office or sick visit code, an immunization diagnosis is **not required**. When billing an administration code for immunizations as the **only** service for that day, providers **are required** to use an immunization diagnosis code. Always list the CPT vaccine product codes when billing these administration codes with the **EP** modifier.
- When reporting or billing vaccine administration codes, providers must use the appropriate CPT code(s) with the **EP** modifier listed.
- Do NOT append the **EP** modifier to the CPT vaccine product codes.
- Do NOT report the National Drug Code (NDC) with the CPT vaccine product code. NDCs should not be submitted for vaccine CPT codes to prevent denials of those details.
- Providers must use ICD 10-CM coding for all immunizations given after October 1st, 2015. In all routine cases, that code is now Z23.
- Face to face counseling of the patient and family by the physician or qualified healthcare professional during the administration of a vaccine is billed with CPT 90460 with the **EP** modifier. One unit is billed for each vaccine for which counseling is provided.

- CPT code 90460 is an immunization administration code, which includes counseling. It is not an add-on “counseling” code. Therefore, 90460 cannot be mixed with other codes for the same vaccine product. If the physician or qualified health care professional provides only a vaccine information statement (VIS), this does not constitute face-to-face counseling for the purposes of billing CPT code 90460EP.
- Administration of one injectable vaccine is billed with CPT code 90471 (without counseling) or 90460 (one unit) with the **EP** modifier.
- Additional injectable immunization administrations (without counseling) are billed with CPT code 90472 with the **EP** modifier. The appropriate number of units must be billed for each additional immunization administration CPT procedure code, with the total charge for all units reflected on the detail.
- Administration of **one** vaccine that is an **oral** immunization is billed with the administration CPT code 90473 with the **EP** modifier.
- All of the units billed for CPT codes 90471EP, 90472EP, 90473EP, 90474EP and 90460EP must be billed on ONE detail to avoid duplicate audit denials.
- **SC Modifier:** Certain purchased vaccines require the SC modifier. See specific billing guidance posted in NC Tracks for further information. Generally, vaccine-specific guidance is published in individual articles in the Medicaid bulletin.
- CPT code 90473 can only be billed if the oral (*NCIP/VIP does not currently recommend/cover an intranasal product*) vaccine is the only immunization provided on that date of service.
- CPT code 90473 cannot be billed with another immunization administration code on that date of service. See guidance in next bullet for further clarification. A *second* oral

immunization (*Only Rotavirus Oral is currently supported by NCIP/VFC*) cannot be billed at this time. Currently, no *intranasal* vaccines are supported by NCIP/VFC program.

- Administration of an oral vaccine provided **in addition to** one or more injectable vaccines is billed with CPT code 90474 with the **EP** modifier.
- CPT vaccine product codes for the vaccines administered must be reported or billed, as appropriate, even if administration codes are not being billed.
- Only rebatable drugs/biologicals may be billed to Medicaid. Refer to **March 2012 Special Bulletin**, *National Drug code Implementation, Update*, found at:
<https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/document/january-2012-special-bulletin-national-drug-code-ndc-implementation-update>
- Immunizations and therapeutic injections may be billed on the same date of service and on the same claim.

Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic Providers:

- An immunization administration fee code(s) may be billed if it is the only service provided that day, or if any immunizations are provided in addition to a Health Check assessment.
- An immunization administration fee code(s) cannot be billed in addition to a core visit code. Report the CPT vaccine code(s) without billing the administration fee.

EPSDT PROVISION: EPSDT allows a recipient less than 21 years of age to receive services in excess of the limitations or restrictions and without meeting the specific criteria in this section when such services are medically necessary health care services to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem]. This includes EPSDT coverage of additional codes/procedures as it relates to immunization and immunization administration.

When a non-covered vaccine item is considered a medical necessity, or a limit on administration will be exceeded the provider should submit a request for prior authorization as a state non-covered service for a beneficiary under 21 years of age through the NC Tracks Provider Portal. Documentation must show how the service, product or procedure will correct, improve or maintain the recipient's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

For more information on EPSDT and Medicaid's Children's benefit, see:

<http://dma.ncdhhs.gov/providers/programs-services/medical/Health-Check-Early-and-Periodic-Screening-Diagnosis-and-Treatment>

Section VI: North Carolina Vaccines for Children Program

The **North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP)/Vaccines for Children (VFC)** Program provides, at no charge, all recommended vaccines for all VFC-eligible children birth through 18 years of age present in North Carolina, including Medicaid enrolled children. Medicaid recipients from birth through 18 years of age are automatically eligible for VFC vaccine, including those dually covered by Medicaid and another insurance plan.

Vaccines are provided in accordance with the recommendations of the **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)** of the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. Because of the availability of NCIP/VFC vaccines for Medicaid enrolled children 18 years of age and younger, Medicaid does not reimburse for vaccines available from the NCIP/VFC program. Medicaid does, however, reimburse for the administration of these vaccines.

Please Note: VFC Program covers American Indians and Alaska Native populations regardless of other health insurance coverage.

American Indians or Alaska Natives are entitled to VFC vaccines. For American Indians or Alaska natives with *NC Health Choice* coverage, *NC Health Choice* will only reimburse a vaccine administration fee. The provider should review current *NC Health Choice* benefit plan information available on NC Tracks and on the DHHS website for details regarding eligibility groups and billing/processing of *NC Health Choice* claims. For further information, see:

<http://dma.ncdhhs.gov/providers/programs-services/prescription-drugs/Physicians-Drug-Program>

In **rare** instances, due to recalls or true shortages of vaccines, Medicaid may reimburse for purchased vaccine that is normally provided through the NCIP/VFC program. In those instances, specific billing instructions will be provided in the general Medicaid bulletins in an article specifically targeted to this topic.

Providers must use purchased vaccines for Medicaid enrolled beneficiaries ages 19 and 20, who (because of their age) are not routinely eligible for NCIP/VFC vaccines. *When purchased vaccine is administered to this age group, Medicaid will reimburse providers for the vaccine product and the administration fee.*

VFC Eligible Populations

To be eligible for VFC vaccine, children through 18 years of age must meet at least one of the following criteria stated below.

- Medicaid enrolled
- Uninsured
- American Indian / Alaskan Native
- Underinsured
- Unaccompanied minors without proof of insurance presenting to local health department Title X clinics.

Very infrequently, NCIP vaccines may be administered to Medicaid beneficiaries ages 19 and older. Medicaid will cover the administration fee only. In that case, the CPT vaccine code for the NCIP vaccine must be reported with \$0.00. Vaccine procedure codes must always be included on the claim. CPT codes for vaccine products must **always** be included on the claim **without the EP modifier**.

About the North Carolina Immunization Program

In order to participate in the NCIP, medical providers must submit to the requirements of the NCIP program. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Signing a legally-binding program agreement annually (only physicians licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina may sign an NCIP Provider Agreement),
- Allowing N.C. Immunization Branch staff to perform periodic site visits,
- Administering vaccines according to required guidelines,

- Maintaining correct storage and handling procedures for vaccines, and
- Accounting for every dose of state-supplied vaccine received.

Who Should Join the NCIP

Health care providers who administer vaccines to children eligible for the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program should join the NCIP program. New NCIP participants are required to enroll in the North Carolina Immunization Registry.

How to Join

N.C. Medicaid providers who are not enrolled in NCIP or who have questions concerning the program should call the N.C. Division of Public Health's Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247. Please note that providers who serve only adult patients or insured children cannot join the NCIP.

Providers within 40 miles of North Carolina's Border

Out-of-state providers may obtain VFC vaccines by calling their state's VFC program office. VFC program telephone numbers for the states bordering North Carolina are listed below:

- **Georgia** 1-404-657-5013
- **South Carolina** 1-800-277-4687
- **Tennessee** 1-615-741-7343
- **Virginia** 1-804-864-8055

Medicaid beneficiaries birth through 18 years of age are automatically eligible for VFC vaccine, even those who are dually covered by Medicaid and another insurance plan.

Because vaccines have other criteria which must be met **and vaccine criteria are subject to change**, it is recommended that providers go to the Immunization Branch web site at:

<http://www.immunize.nc.gov>.

Select “Healthcare Providers;” then select “NCIP coverage criteria” under the heading North Carolina Immunization Program Requirements (NCIP), or call the Immunization Branch Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

Rates

All codes reviewed are reimbursable at rates published in Medicaid’s most current Physician Fee Schedule. The Schedule is published at:

[*Physician Fee Schedule.*](#)

Section VII: Listing of 2016 NCIP/VFC Vaccines

The table below lists NCIP/VFC vaccines provided in North Carolina to VFC eligible children ages 18 years and younger.

| Code | CPT Description | NCIP/VFC Vaccine Specifics |
|-------|--|---|
| 90291 | Cytomegalovirus immune globulin (CMV-IgIV), human, for intravenous (IV) use | |
| J1460 | Injection, gamma globulin, for intramuscular (IM) use 1cc. | Limited distribution to health depts. (LHDs) only, and only during outbreaks. |
| J1560 | Injection, gamma globulin, IM, over 10 cc | |
| 90371 | Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), human, IM | |
| J1571 | Injection, hepatitis B immune globulin (Hepagam B), IM, 0.5 ml | |
| J1573 | Injection, hepatitis B immune globulin (Hepagam B), IV, 0.5 ml | |
| J1559 | Injection, immune globulin, (Hizentra), 100 mg | |
| J1561 | Injection, immune globulin, (Gamunex/Gamunex C/Ganmaked), nonlyophilized (e.g. liquid) 500 mg | |
| J1562 | Injection, immune globulin, (Vivaglobin), 100 mg, SC | |
| J1566 | Injection, immune globulin, IV, lyophilized (e.g., powder), 500 mg | |
| J1568 | Injection, immune globulin, (Octagam), IV, non-lyophilized (e.g. liquid), 500 mg | |
| J1569 | Injection, immune globulin, (Gammagard liquid), non-lyophilized (e.g., liquid), 500 mg | |
| J1572 | Injection, immune globulin, (Flebogamma/Flebogamma Dif), IV, non-lyophilized (e.g., liquid), 500 mg | |
| J2788 | Injection, Rho D immune globulin, human,minidose, 50 mcg (250 i.u.) | |
| J2790 | Injection, Rho D immune globulin, human, full dose, 300 mcg (1500 i.u.) | |
| J2791 | Injection, Rho D immune globulin, (human) (Rhophylac) IM or IV, 100 IU | |
| J2792 | Injection, Rho D immune globulin, IV, human, solvent detergent, 100 IU | |
| J7504 | Lymphocyte immune globulin, antithymocyte globulin, equine, parenteral, 250 mg Brand name: <i>Atgam</i> | |

| Code | <i>CPT Description</i> | NCIP/VFC Vaccine Specifics |
|-------------|---|---|
| 90375 | Rabies immune globulin, (RIG), human, for IM and/or subcutaneous use | |
| 90389 | Tetanus immune globulin (TIG), human, for IM use | |
| 90585 | Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG) for tuberculosis, live for percutaneous use | |
| 90632 | Hepatitis A vaccine, adult dosage, for IM use | 19 years of age and above Limited distribution to LHDs only, and only during outbreaks. |
| 90633 | Hepatitis A vaccine, pediatric/adolescent dosage – 2 dose schedule, for IM use | 12 months of age through 18 years of age |
| 90636* | Hepatitis A and B combination (HepA-HepB), adult dosage, for IM use | 18 years of age and above only in LHDs, FQHCs, and RHCs* |
| 90647 | Hemophilus influenza type b vaccine (Hib), PRP-OMP conjugate (3 dose schedule), for IM use | Brand name - PedvaxHIB Routine – 2 months to less than 5 years of age High risk - greater than 59 months through 18 years of age. |
| 90648 | Hemophilus influenza type b vaccine (Hib), PRP-T conjugate (4 dose schedule), for IM use | Brand name – ActHIB Routine – 2 months to less than 5 years of age; High risk – greater than 59 months through 18 years of age. |
| 90649 | Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, types 6, 11, 16, 18, quadrivalent (4vHPV), 3 dose schedule, for IM use | Brand name – Gardasil Females and males 9 years through 18 years of age |
| 90650 | Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, types 16, 18, bivalent (2vHPV) 3 dose schedule, for IM use | Brand name – Cervarix Females 9 through 18 years of age |
| 90651 | Human papillomavirus vaccine types 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, 58, nonavalent (9vHPV), IM, 3 dose sched. | Brand name – Gardasil 9 Females and males 9 through 18 years of age |
| 90685 | Influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (IIV4), split virus, preservative free, for IM use | 6-35 months of age |
| 90686 | Influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (IIV4), split virus, preservative free, for IM use | 3 through 18 years of age |
| 90687 | Influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (IIV4), split virus, for IM use | 6-35 months of age |
| 90688 | Influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (IIV4), split virus, for IM use | 3 through 18 years of age |

| Code | CPT Description | NCIP/VFC Vaccine Specifics |
|-------------|---|--|
| 90674 | Influenza virus vaccine, quadrivalent (ccIIV4), egg-based and cell culture-based, for IM use | 4 through 18 years of age ** available after 10/15/16 |
| 90670 | Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, 13 valent (PCV13), for IM use | Brand name – Prevnar 13 Routine – 2 months through 59 months of age High risk – 60 months through 18 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions |
| 90675 | Rabies vaccine for IM use | |
| 90680 | Rotavirus vaccine, (RV5), pentavalent, 3 dose schedule, live, for oral use | Brand name – Rotateq 6 weeks through 7 months of age |
| 90681 | Rotavirus vaccine, human, attenuated (RV1), 2 dose schedule, live, for oral use | Brand name – Rotarix 6 weeks through 7 months of age |
| 90696 | Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis vaccine and inactivated poliovirus vaccine (DTaP-IPV), for IM use | 4 years through 6 years of age for the booster dose only of DTaP and polio vaccines |
| 90698 | Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis vaccine, Haemophilus influenza type b, and inactivated poliovirus vaccine (DTaP-IPV/Hib), for IM use | 2 months through 4 years of age |
| 90700 | Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP), for IM use | 2 months through 6 years of age |
| 90702 | Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids adsorbed (DT), for IM use | 2 months through 6 years of age |
| 90707* | Measles, mumps, and rubella virus vaccine (MMR), live, for SC use | 12 months through 18 years of age* |
| 90710 | Measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine (MMRV), live, for SC use | 12 months through 12 years of age |
| 90713 | Poliovirus vaccine, inactivated (IPV), for SC or IM use | 2 months through 17 years of age |
| 90714* | Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td), preservative free, for IM use | 7 years through 18 years of age* |
| 90715* | Tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap), when administered to individuals 7 years or older, for IM use | 7 years through 18 years of age* |
| 90716 | Varicella virus vaccine, (VAR), live, for SC use | 12 months through 18 years of age |

| Code | CPT Description | NCIP/VFC Vaccine Specifics |
|-------------|--|--|
| 90723 | Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccine, hepatitis B, and inactivated poliovirus vaccine, (Dtap-HepB-IPV), for IM use | 2 months through 6 years of age |
| 90732 | Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, 23-valent, (PPSV23) adult or immunosuppressed patient dosage, for SC or IM use | Only for high-risk children two years through 18 years of age |
| 90734* | Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups A, C, Y and W-135 (MenACWY), for IM use | Routine – 11 through 18 years of age High risk – Menveo – starts at 2 months of age Menactra – starts at 9 months of age |
| 90620 | Meningococcal recombinant protein and outer membrane vesicle vaccine, serogroup B (MenB), 2 dose schedule, for IM use | Brand name – Bexsero High risk children ages 10-18 Children aged 16-18 years without high risk conditions may also be vaccinated based on the provider's clinical judgement for children who are at increased risk for disease. |
| 90621 | Meningococcal recombinant lipoprotein vaccine, serogroup B (MenB), 3 dose schedule, for IM use | Brand name - Trumenba High risk children ages 10-18 Children aged 16-18 years without high risk conditions may also be vaccinated based on the provider's clinical judgement for children who are at increased risk for disease. |
| 90644 | Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, serogroups C&Y and Haemophilus influenza type B vaccine (Hib-MenCY), 4 dose schedule, for IM use | Brand name - MenHibrix Children 2-18 months of age |
| 90740 | Hepatitis B vaccine, dialysis or immunosuppressed patient dosage (3-dose schedule), for IM use | |
| 90744* | Hepatitis B vaccine pediatric/adolescent dosage (3 dose schedule), for IM use | Birth through 18 years of age* |
| 90746* | Hepatitis B vaccine, adult dosage, for IM use, 3 dose schedule | 20 years of age and older, only in LHDs* |
| 90747 | Hepatitis B vaccine dialysis or immunosuppressed patient dosage, 4 dose schedule, for IM use | |

Please note:

For services delivered on or after October 1, 2015, Providers will use ICD 10-CM Code Z23 for all routine instances of vaccine administration.

Note: This list is subject to change. Updates regarding vaccines are published in the general Medicaid bulletins on DMA's website at:

<http://dma.ncdhhs.gov/providers/medicaid-bulletins>.

Providers should refer to the Immunization Branch website at:

<http://www.immunize.nc.gov>

for detailed information regarding vaccines. Certain vaccines are provided for those recipients 19 years of age and older through the NCIP. Questions about current coverage may also be addressed by calling the NCIP at 1-877-873-6247.

Each influenza season, ACIP issues recommendations for the administration of flu vaccine. Based on these recommendations, NCIP issues coverage criteria announcements at the beginning of the season. Additional guidance may be issued throughout the flu season if the availability of vaccine changes.