



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
July 25, 2008	July 1, 2008	99-08-10

SUBJECT
Screening for Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorders

Michael Nardone
Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) has added screening for developmental delays and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) for eligible Medical Assistance (MA) recipients under 21 years of age to the MA Program Outpatient Fee Schedule effective July 1, 2008.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs), outpatient hospitals and independent medical surgical clinics that are enrolled in the MA Program. Providers rendering services under the MA managed care delivery system should direct any payment-related questions regarding screening for developmental delays and ASDs to the appropriate MA managed care organization (MCO).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently revised their periodicity schedule for screening of children. In their 2008 Bright Futures Guidelines, the AAP recommends that screening periodicities of nine months, 18 months, 24 months and 30 months include screening for developmental delays and ASDs. The AAP also recommends that providers should conduct screens for developmental delays and ASDs outside of the recommended screening periodicities when medically necessary.

The Department considers early childhood an important opportunity to screen children for developmental delays and ASDs. Based upon the recommendation of the AAP, the Department has added screening for developmental delays and ASDs to the MA Program Outpatient Fee Schedule effective July 1, 2008, for MA recipients under 21 years of age. The addition of screening for developmental delays and ASDs to the MA Program Outpatient Fee Schedule will

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

promote early detection of developmental delays and ASDs, timely follow-up testing and referrals to appropriate services and supports.

PROCEDURE:

Effective July 1, 2008, the Department will make payment to physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospitals and independent medical surgical clinics for screenings for developmental delays and ASDs that are medically necessary and rendered to MA recipients under 21 years of age. Providers must document the medical necessity for all screening services in the child's medical records, in accordance with 55 Pa.Code § 1101.51 (relating to ongoing responsibilities of providers). Providers should also make referrals for additional testing and services when needed.

The Department has added procedure code 96110 for developmental screening and 96110 with informational modifier U1 for autism screening to the MA Fee Program Schedule.

Procedure Code	Description	Informational Modifier
96110	Developmental testing; limited (eg, Developmental Screening Test II, Early Language Milestone Screen), with interpretation and report, each 15 minutes; developmental screening	
96110	Developmental testing; limited (eg, Developmental Screening Test II, Early Language Milestone Screen), with interpretation and report, each 15 minutes; autism screening	U1

Providers should use the attached MA Program Fee Schedule – Screening for Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorders when billing for developmental screening and autism screening. Providers may access the on-line version of the fee schedule at the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) website at:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders/MedicalAssistance/Schedules/003675734.htm>

PAYMENT LIMITATIONS:

Physicians, CRNPs, outpatient hospitals and independent medical surgical clinics may bill for one screening for developmental delays and one screening for ASDs per MA recipient on the same day.

Payment for the screenings for developmental delays and ASDs are subject to MA regulations set forth in 55 Pa.Code § 1150.56(b) (relating to MA Program payment policies).

The MA Program has established service limits for procedure code 96110. If needed, providers may request a waiver of the limits through the 1150 Administrative Waiver (Program Exception) process. MCOs are not required to impose service limits that apply in the Fee-for-Service delivery system, although they are permitted to do so. MCOs may not impose service limits that are more restrictive than the service limits established in the Fee-for-Service system. An MCO that chooses to establish service limits must notify network providers before implementing the limits.

ATTACHMENT: Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule – Screening for Developmental Delays and Autism Spectrum Disorders