

Developmental screening, autism screening and perinatal depression screenings

Background: For dates of service on and after January 1, 2021, Louisiana Medicaid reimburses separately for developmental screening, autism screening and perinatal depression screening. Healthy Blue is making system updates to allow separate reimbursement for these screenings. We will recycle all denied or incorrectly paid claims by March 18, 2021, with no action required by the provider.

Developmental and autism screening

Healthy Blue covers developmental and autism screenings administered during Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) preventive visits in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)/Bright Futures periodicity schedule. Healthy Blue also covers developmental and autism screenings performed by primary care providers when administered at intervals outside EPSDT preventive visits if they are medically indicated for an enrollee at-risk for, or with a suspected, developmental abnormality:

- Healthy Blue will only reimburse the use of age-appropriate, caregiver-completed and validated screening tools as recommended by the AAP.
- If a member screens positive on a developmental or autism screen, the provider must give appropriate developmental health recommendations, refer the enrollee for additional evaluation, or both, as clinically appropriate. Providers must document the screening tool(s) used, the result of the screen and any action taken, if needed, in the enrollee's medical record.
- Developmental screening and autism screening are currently reimbursed using the same procedure code. Providers may only receive reimbursement for one developmental screen and one autism screen per day of service. To receive reimbursement for both services performed on the same day, providers may submit claims for two units of the relevant procedure code.
- Developmental and autism screening are reimbursed separately when performed according to the AAP/Bright Futures periodicity schedule or when medically indicated. Providers must use a standardized tool referenced by the AAP/Bright Futures.

Perinatal depression screenings

Healthy Blue covers perinatal depression screening administered to a member's caregiver in accordance with the AAP/Bright Futures periodicity schedule. The screening can be administered from birth to one year during an EPSDT preventive visit, inter-periodic visit or evaluation and management (E&M) office visit. This service is a recommended, but not required, component of well-child care:

- Perinatal depression screening must employ one of the following validated screening tools:
 - Edinburg Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)
 - Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9)
 - Patient Health Questionnaire 2 (PHQ-2) and, if positive, a full PHQ-9
- Documentation must include the tool used, the results and any follow-up actions taken. If a member's caregiver screens positive, the provider must refer the caregiver to available resources, such as their primary care provider, obstetrician or mental health professionals, and document the referral. If screening indicates possible suicidality, concern for the safety of the caregiver or member, or another psychiatric emergency, then referral to emergency mental health services is required.

<https://providers.healthyblue.com>

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- Though the screening is administered to the caregiver, Healthy Blue will reimburse this service under the child's Medicaid coverage. If two or more children under age one present to care on the same day (e.g., twins or other siblings both under age one), the provider must submit the claim under only one of the children. When performed on the same day as a developmental screening, providers must append modifier 59 to claims for perinatal depression screening.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.