

## **Help is Available to Create Standardized Developmental Screening in Your Practice**

- The Colorado Assuring Better Child Health & Development (ABCD) project has received a three year grant to provide training and technical assistance to providers to implement a “validated” developmental screening tool into well child visits for infants/toddlers birth to three.
- The ABCD project is partnering with CCHAP to provide training and support to pediatric practices to implement standardized developmental screening into well care checks.
- **Medicaid will reimburse \$34.00** to providers if you implement validated developmental screening into an EPSDT visit.
- The Colorado Chapter of the AAP supports the ABCD project in implementing enhanced developmental and behavioral screening and surveillance in pediatric practices.
- Early detection and intervention is crucial to improve outcomes. Many delays in children’s development are missed in the first 4-5 years of life without a standardized, validated screening test.
- What should providers do: Use new, brief, accurate, standardized, time-efficient tool for developmental screening. The most time-efficient tool is one in which the parent completes a questionnaire.
- To comply with 2010 recertification guidelines by the American Board of Pediatrics, documentation will be required to show levels of involvement in practice improvement initiatives. By implementing the use of a "validated" developmental screening with a sensitivity and specificity rating of 70% or greater like the ASQ or PEDS, practices are taking steps to integrate quality improvement into their practices.
- Currently in Colorado, based on December 1, 2006 Child Count Data, only 1.9% of the birth to three population is being identified as eligible for early intervention services. Colorado’s goal by 2010 is 2.5 % which is the national average for identifying birth to three year olds as eligible for early intervention.
- What are providers saying about implementing either the ASQ or the PEDS parent questionnaire developmental screening tool:
  - It takes less than a minute of the provider’s time if the MA, LPN or RN scores the questionnaire.
  - In many instances, it reduces the length of the visit.

- It helps providers concentrate on what are the concerns/priorities of the caregivers.
  - It reduces the doorknob concerns as you are walking out the door of a well care visit.
  - It improves patient satisfaction and positive parenting practices.
  - It increases provider confidence in decision-making for when to refer a child for further developmental evaluation.
- Eileen Auer Bennett, the Colorado State ABCD Coordinator and her team are available to assist providers in getting started. Training and technical assistance will be provided to practices in the implementation of a standardized tool such as the ASQ or PEDS. Support will also be given to front/back office staff on how to implement the use of a standardized developmental screening tool into the current office work flow.

**For more information, please contact:**

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