

Well-child Encounters in the Era of COVID-19

Although non-urgent face-to-face visits are largely suspended, families need our help more than ever. Below is information on how to care for children remotely, advise parents, measure developmental-behavioral progress and receive payment for care.

Reaching Families

- HIPAA has suspended security requirements for telemedicine, so clinicians can use FaceTime or Skype for telemedicine for the time-being. This means you can phone or video call. Append the modifier "- 95" to a regular visit code.
- Most families have cellphones and most often smart-phones. Android users must download Skype. For I-Phone users Facetime works (as does Skype if downloaded).
- Telephone/tele-video calls to families are reimbursable: Use 99358: Prolonged services without direct patient contact; 30 - 60 minutes [\$113.41] and +99359 for each additional 30 min. [\$54.55]
- For more information see: <https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/tools-resources/Documents/AAP%20care%20coordination%20coding%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Measuring Development-Behavior/Mental Health

For advice to be effective, evidence-based triaging is essential. Triage identifies specific topics for developmental-behavioral promotion and anticipatory guidance, thus creating "teachable moments."

- Several quality developmental-behavioral screening tools are available online via parent portals. Parents do not see results. The following are on all State lists and approved by the AAP:
 - ASQ Online (which includes the ASQ and the ASQ:SE) <https://agesandstages.com/asq-online/>
 - PEDS Tools Online (which includes PEDS, PEDS: Developmental Milestones and M-CHAT-R) www.pedstestonline.com/trial
- The above measures are eligible for 96110 reimbursement while informal milestones built into EHRs are not. Append to the well-visit code a modifier, usually - 25 or - 59 (per payer requirements).
- Next list 96110 and the number of screens administered. For example if using all three screens within PEDS Online, write 96110 (X 3). Payment is, on average, \$8.00 per screen although some States have different reimbursement schemes.
- If conducting a parent depression screen (such as the PSQ-9 or Edinburgh) use 96161

Billing and Coding for Care Coordination

- If a patient is found to have two or more long-term problems, use the Chronic Care Management code: CPT 99490 - for at least 20 minutes of assisting families with referrals to early intervention services including Head Start, IDEA programs, etc.
- For more information on care coordination codes see the AAP's Medical Home website: <https://www.medicalhomeportal.org/clinical-practice/care-coordination/coding-and-billing-for-care-coordination>

Finding Parenting Information Resources

- For sharing advice on Covid-19 in multiple languages, see <https://en.hesperian.org/hhg/Coronavirus>

- For developmental-behavioral promotion handouts for parents - or for sending families links to reputable websites see: <https://pedstest.com/static/ParentingInformationResources.html>

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Disclosure: Dr. Glascoe is the author of one of the online early detection resources mentioned in this article but supports quality measures by other publishers.