Don’t Just Wait and See: Improving Developmental Screening and Follow-up Record Review Tool

Please review up to the first 5 patient charts/records who received health supervision visits by you during the specified review month for the following sets of patients:

- Patients seen for the 9-month health supervision visit
- Patients seen for the 18-month health supervision visit
- Patients seen for the 24- and/or 30-month health supervision visit

1. Select the appropriate patient set:
   - ☐ Patients seen for the 9-month health supervision visit
   - ☐ Patients seen for the 18-month health supervision visit
   - ☐ Patients seen for the 24- and 30-month health supervision visit

9-Month Health Supervision Visits

2. Is there documentation in the medical record that a standardized developmental screening was conducted at the 9-month visit? (If NO, skip to question #5.)
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

3. Is there documentation that developmental screening results were discussed with the patient’s family at the time of the screening?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

4. If a positive developmental screen was identified, is there documentation in the medical record that the patient was referred for follow-up care within 7 calendar days? (Note: Follow-up care examples include Part C Early Intervention Program, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, child psychologist, speech and language evaluation; see additional examples below.)
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ N/A (choose N/A only if the patient did not have a positive developmental screen)
   - ☐ No

18-Month Health Supervision Visits

5. Is there documentation in the medical record that a standardized developmental screening was conducted at the 18-month visit? (If NO, skip to question #8.)
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
6. Is there documentation that developmental screening results were discussed with the patient’s family at the time of the screening?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

7. If a positive developmental screen was identified, is there documentation in the medical record that the patient was referred for follow-up care within 7 calendar days? (Note: Follow-up care examples include Part C, Early Intervention Program, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, child psychologist, speech and language evaluation; see additional examples below.)

☐ Yes  ☐ N/A (choose N/A only if the patient did not have a positive developmental screen)  ☐ No

8. Is there documentation in the medical record that a standardized autism screening was conducted at the 18-month visit (If NO, skip to question #11)?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

9. Is there documentation that autism screening results were discussed with the patient’s family at the time of the screening?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

10. If a positive autism screen was identified, is there documentation in the medical record that the patient was referred for follow-up care within 7 calendar days? (Note: Follow-up care examples include Part C, Early Intervention Program, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, child psychologist, speech and language evaluation; see additional examples below.)

☐ Yes  ☐ N/A (choose N/A only if the patient did not have a positive autism screen)  ☐ No

24- and/or 30-Month Health Supervision Visits

11. Is there documentation in the medical record that a standardized developmental screening was conducted at the 24- or 30-month visit? (Note: you may choose either 24 or 30 month patient charts for this measure depending on when you conduct developmental screening) (If NO, skip to question #14.)

☐ Yes  ☐ No

12. Is there documentation that developmental screening results were discussed with the patient’s family at the time of the screening?
13. If a positive developmental screen was identified, is there documentation in the medical record that the patient was referred for follow-up care within 7 calendar days? (Note: Follow-up care examples include Part C Early Intervention Program, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, child psychologist, speech and language evaluation; see additional examples below.)

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ N/A (choose N/A only if the patient did not have a positive developmental screen)

14. Is there documentation in the medical record that a standardized autism screening was conducted at the 24-month visit? (If NO, your chart review is complete; skip questions #15 and #16.)

☐ Yes  ☐ No

15. Is there documentation that autism screening results were discussed with the patient’s family at the time of the screening?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

16. If a positive autism screen was identified, is there documentation in the medical record that the patient was referred for follow-up care within 7 calendar days? (Note: Follow-up care examples include Part C Early Intervention Program, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, child psychologist, speech and language evaluation; see additional examples below.)

☐ Yes  ☐ N/A (choose N/A only if the patient did not have a positive autism screen)  ☐ No
I. **AAP Policy Statement:** *Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening*

II. **Communicating Developmental Screening Results with Families**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Tips for Talking with Parents
- AAP Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Newsletter: Explaining the Results of a Failed Screen
- *Sugar-coaters and Straight Talkers: Communicating About Developmental Delays in Primary Care*

III. **Positive Developmental Screen**
A positive developmental screening result refers to a result from a validated developmental screening tool that indicates the patient tests positive for risk of a developmental delay.

IV. **Referral for Follow-up Care**
Referral for follow-up care is defined as the formal event in which the clinician
- provides a referral to the patient’s family (and does not include any further steps in the process such as securing the appointment, confirming appointment attendance, etc.)
- refers to any type of therapy, intervention, or education to mitigate developmental delays
- can be within the medical home or outside of the medical home.

A referral can also include a form of watchful waiting by which the clinician offers practice-based intervention(s) and schedules a follow-up visit within 3 months. Some referral types are listed as examples below, but this list is not exhaustive:
- Part C Early Intervention Program
- Referral for Follow-up Testing
- Home Visiting for 0-5
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Medical home Clinician Internal
- Specialty Clinician External
- Early Head Start
- Network Care Manager
- Family-to-Family Support
- Hearing and Vision Specialists
- Mental Health Specialist
V. Screening vs Surveillance

**Developmental and behavioral screening** is a first line check of a child’s development, using a developmental and behavioral screening tool. A developmental and behavioral screening tool is a formal research-based checklist that asks questions about a child’s development, including language, motor, cognitive, social, and emotional development. The results of a screening can help you plan how to best support the development of the child in your care. A screening does not provide a diagnosis, rather, it indicates whether a child is on track developmentally and if an evaluation with a specialist is needed.

- *Birth to 5 Watch me Thrive: A Primary Care Provider’s Guide for Developmental and Behavioral Screening*

**Developmental surveillance** is the tracking of a child’s development over time. It is different from screening in that it is a flexible, continuous process during which primary care professionals attend to parental or caregiver concerns, obtain a relevant developmental history, document observations of children using clinical judgment, and share opinions and concerns with relevant professionals. Pediatricians may use [age-appropriate developmental checklists to record milestones](#) during well child visits as part of developmental surveillance.