



## Resource Guide

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| Subject:                     | Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Screening   |
| Facility Site Review Source: |  |
| Relevant Law/Standard:       | <p>Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All Plan Letter 20-006, Site Reviews: Facility Site Review and Medical Record Review or any superseding APL</p> <p>DHCS APL 18-006 and APL 18-007 or current versions.</p> <p>Refer to APL 19-014, Responsibilities for Behavioral Health Treatment Coverage for Members Under the Age of 21</p> <p>APL 19-010, Requirements for Coverage of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services for Medi-Cal Members Under the Age of 21, or any superseding APLs</p> |
| Agency//Organization Source: | Nation Institute of Mental Health  |
| Agency/Organization URL      | <a href="https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml">https://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml</a>  |

**Background:**

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is said to be a developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening must be performed at 18 months and 24 months based on AAP periodicity “Bright Futures”. If the patient is positive for risk factors, provider shall offer and document appropriate follow-up intervention(s).

Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening tools that may be used are:

- Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
- Communication and Symbolic Behavior Scales (CSBS)
- Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT)
- Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children (STAT)
- Survey of Well-being of Young Children (SWYC) screening tools (assess three domains of child functioning: developmental domain, emotional/behavioral domain, and family context)

**Purpose:**

Doctors diagnose ASD by looking at a person’s behavior and development. ASD can usually be reliably diagnosed by the age of two. It is important for those with concerns to seek out assessment as soon as possible so that a diagnosis can be made, and treatment can begin.

**Resources:**

- ASQ <https://agesandstages.com/screening-navigator/screening/>

- CSBS [https://firstwords.fsu.edu/pdf/Checklist\\_Scoring\\_Cutoffs.pdf](https://firstwords.fsu.edu/pdf/Checklist_Scoring_Cutoffs.pdf)
- PEDS <https://pedstest.com/>
- MCHAT [https://mchatscreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/M-CHAT-R F Rev Aug2018.pdf](https://mchatscreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/M-CHAT-R_F_Rev_Aug2018.pdf)
- STAT <https://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/triad/stat/>

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