



## **State Budget Will Reimburse Medi-Cal Providers for Developmental and Trauma Screening**

As of January 1, 2020, providers are able to get Medi-Cal reimbursement for pediatric developmental screening and trauma screening. The Medi-Cal reimbursement rates will be \$59.90 for developmental screenings for children and \$29 for trauma screenings for children and adults with full-scope Medi-Cal (*at least until July 1, 2021*). Only AAP-approved tools, which includes the ASQ and PEDS/PEDS:DM, will qualify for reimbursement for developmental screening. Trauma screening for children and youth will be reimbursed only with use of the new PEARLS (PEdiatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener) tool.

Screening will be billed using CPT Codes 96110 for developmental screening and HCPCS codes G9919 for trauma screens scoring 4+ and G9920 for trauma screens scoring 0 – 3. Medi-Cal reimbursement will be available to children who are enrolled in managed care plans or in fee-for-service Medi-Cal, and to children who are seen in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Training (2 hours) on trauma screening and trauma-informed care is available at [www.ACEsAware.org](http://www.ACEsAware.org). CMEs and credit towards Maintenance of Certification (MOC) are available with this required training. Attestation to training is due before billing starts.

- The AAP recommends developmental screenings for all children at 9, 18, and 30 months to ensure children are on track with their age and to provide resources to promote healthy development if they are at risk.
- The AAP continues to recommend MCHAT screening at the 18 and 24 month visits. It WILL NOT be reimbursed at the enhanced rate; billing should include the modifier KX (96110-KX).
- Individuals who experience trauma in childhood are at greater risk for heart disease and diabetes and are likely to die 20 years sooner than those without traumatic experiences. Research has shown that early identification and treatment of trauma in children and adults reduces long-term health care costs and maintains the health of entire communities. Children up to age 21 may be screened annually.

California recognizes the importance of developmental and trauma screening and has authorized the funds to support providers in the goal of creating healthier communities. Now more than ever is the time to begin or enhance a screening program in your practice.