

Developmental and Social-Emotional Screening and Surveillance in Early Childhood

CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS (C&TC) FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Developmental and social-emotional screening is strongly recommended at the intervals listed below. Developmental and social-emotional surveillance is required at every C&TC visit.

C&TC standards

General

Developmental surveillance is required at all C&TC visits.

Routine and periodic screening using a recommended standardized instrument is strongly recommended.

- **Perform developmental screening** at ages 9, 18, and 30 months and once between 3 and 5 years.
- **Perform social-emotional screening** beginning at age 6 months, continuing every 6 months through 2 years, then yearly.

Refer to the [C&TC Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Fact Sheet](#).

Personnel

Screening personnel qualifications are instrument-specific; refer to each instrument's instruction manual for more information.

A licensed health care provider must perform surveillance, interpret all screening results, and ensure appropriate follow-up: physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a registered or public health nurse (RN or PHN) who has completed the

C&TC Comprehensive Screening training through the Minnesota Department of Health.

Documentation

Document developmental surveillance findings and results of screening(s) in the child's medical record. Documentation must include the name of the screening instrument(s) used, score(s), and screening result-specific anticipatory guidance provided to the parent or caregiver. Documentation of atypical screening results must include a plan of care and appropriate referrals.

Refer to the [C&TC Provider Documentation Forms](#) for documentation examples or to use as a template with your electronic medical record.

Procedure

Surveillance

Surveillance includes obtaining parent or caregiver concerns about development, a history of the child's developmental, social-emotional, and current functioning, making accurate observations of the child's development, identifying risk and protective factors, and accurately documenting findings.

Screening instruments

Use separate instruments for developmental and social-emotional screening. Refer to [Instruments at a Glance for C&TC Clinic Settings](#).

Referral and management

Review the screening results with the child’s parent or caregiver. When concerns are identified, prompt referral, evaluation, and treatment can improve a child’s long-term outcomes and developmental path. Indicate a referral with the appropriate HIPAA-compliant referral code on the claim.

Comprehensive medical evaluation

A comprehensive medical evaluation performed by the primary care provider helps determine further developmental evaluation, treatment, eligibility, and necessity for early intervention services.

Educational evaluation

Refer either directly to the local school district or through [Help Me Grow](#) *as soon as concerns are identified*.

Mental health evaluation

Refer to the [map of Early Childhood Mental Health services by county](#) to find local providers.

Follow-up

Establish a follow-up process with the family after referral to ensure access to services. With the parent’s permission, coordinate with educational and other professionals. Refer to [Sharing Child Information to Coordinate Early Childhood](#)

[Special Education \(ECSE\) Referrals](#). Close the loop by documenting referral results.

Consider sharing additional resources with the family from [Help Me Connect](#), such as parenting support, mental health supports, and early childhood and community education programs.

Professional recommendations

American Academy of Pediatrics

Provide developmental surveillance at every well visit and developmental screening with a standardized instrument at specific ages and whenever surveillance demonstrates risk (Lipkin, Macias, & Council on Children with Disabilities, 2020).

Resources

Minnesota Department of Human Services

- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section](#)

Minnesota Department of Health

- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\)](#)
- [C&TC Developmental and Social-Emotional Screening in the Clinic Setting](#)
- [The Follow Along Program](#)

Other resources

- [Early Childhood Screening](#)
- [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#)

For more information

The Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is administered through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

For questions about this fact sheet or to obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3650 or email health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us.

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Resource links

- [C&TC Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening Fact Sheet](#)
(www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreynouth/ctc/autismscreen.pdf)
- [C&TC Provider Documentation Forms](#)
(<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/policies-procedures/minnesota-health-care-programs/provider/types/ctc-resources>)
- [Instruments at a Glance for C&TC Clinic Settings](#)
(www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childreynouth/ctc/devscreenctc.pdf)
- [Help Me Grow](#)
(<https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/Refer/index.html>)
- [Map of Early Childhood Mental Health services by county](#)
(<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5448D-ENG>)
- [Sharing Child Information to Coordinate Early Childhood Special Education \(ECSE\) Referrals](#)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childreynouth/ctc/devscreen/ecserrefer.pdf>)

- [Help Me Connect](#)
(<https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect>)
- [C&TC Schedule of Age-Related Screening Standards](#)
(<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3379-ENG>)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) Provider Manual - C&TC Section](#)
(www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_150092)
- [Child and Teen Checkups \(C&TC\)](#)
(www.health.state.mn.us/divs/cfh/program/ctc/index.cfm)
- [C&TC Developmental and Social-Emotional Screening in the Clinic Setting](#)
(www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreynouth/ctc/devscreenctc.html)
- [Follow Along Program](#)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreynouth/fap/index.html>) [Follow Along Program](#)
- [Early Childhood Screening](#)
(<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/elsprog/screen/>)
- [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#)
(<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>)

References

Lipkin, P., Macias, M., & Council on Children with Disabilities, S. o. (2020). Promoting Optimal Development: Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders Through Developmental Surveillance and Screening. *Pediatrics*, 145(1). doi:10.1542/peds.2019-3449