

## Screening Guidelines for Autism in Primary Care Practice

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following for routine screenings:

- Surveillance at every visit—routine screen at 18 and 24 months
- Four risk factors to look for:
  - Sibling with ASD
  - Parent concern, inconsistent hearing, unusual responsiveness
  - Other caregiver concern
  - Pediatrician concern

If 2 or more, refer Early Identification, ASD Evaluation and Audiology simultaneously

If 1 or more, and child is > 18 months old use Autism screening tool (MCHAT) and, if positive refer Early Identification, ASD Evaluation and Pediatric Audiology simultaneously

### MCHAT- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers

- For 16 to 48 months
- Questionnaire completed by the parent/caretaker (5 to 10 minutes to complete)
- Download free form:  
<http://www.firstsigns.org/downloads/m-chat.PDF>
- Simple scoring instructions:  
<http://bit.ly/1ID5o0v>

### MCHAT sample items

- Does your child take an interest in other children?
- Does your child ever use their index finger to point, to indicate interest in something?
- Does your child imitate you?

### Red flags for ASD in 2nd year (*Wetherby and Woods (2003) esi.fsu.edu*)

- Regression
- “In his/her own world”
- Lack of showing /sharing interest or enjoyment
- Using the caregivers hands to obtain needs
- Repetitive movements with objects
- Lack of appropriate gaze
- Lack of response to name
- Unusual pitch/ prosody of vocalizations
- Repetitive movements or posturing of the body

### Asperger’s Syndrome

- Separate from high-functioning autism
- Impaired social skills
- Restricted/repetitive patterns of behavior/ interests

### BUT

- Relatively normal language development
- No significant cognitive deficits
- Verbal IQ is higher than Performance IQ
- Older age at diagnosis

### Coding and Billing

- Screening Code - 96110
- .25 RVU’s
- Reimbursement variable

**Common behavioral issues- correlated with rigidity/ restricted interests and need for sameness**

- Disruption/aggression: rates reported vary from 15 to 64%
- Self-injurious: 8 to 38%
- Eating problems: 25 to 52%
- Sleeping problems: 36%
- Toileting: 40%
- Anxiety: up to 80%

**Associated medical conditions**

- Gastrointestinal: rates of 9 to 70%
  - Chronic constipation
  - Diarrhea
  - Recurrent abdominal pain
- Seizures: 11 to 39%—more likely with severe global delays and motor deficits

**Taken from:** *The AAP Screening Guidelines- Integrating Screening Guidelines in Primary care Practice, Marian Earls, MD, FAAP and Ed Curry, MD, FAAP, Preventive Services Improvement Project Learning Session, January 21-22, 20011.*

**Preventive Services Prompting Sheet** (this may be copied for use in patient's chart)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chart # \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Place X in box when done. (or date in box if off schedule)

Visit Date														
Return Visit	1 wk	1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 m	15 m	18 m	2 yr	30 m	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr
Length/ht														
wt														
hc														
bmi														
bp														
Hearing							or			or				
Vison														
Edinburgh														
ASQ										or				
Autism risk?														
MCHAT														
Lead														
hgb														
Dental var														
TB?'s														
ROR book														

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