

## **DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING USING THE PEDS TOOL**

(Parents' Assessment of Developmental Status)

As of January 1, 2006, AHCCCS began implementing the use of the PEDS tool for developmental screening by all participating primary care providers who had members that had been admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) following birth.

### Frequently asked questions regarding PEDS TOOL

1. What is the PEDS Tool?
  - a. PEDS Tool is Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status. PEDS is a standardized tool to detect and address developmental and behavioral problems.
  
2. Why PEDS?
  - a. PEDS was adopted by AHCCCS after being chosen as the preferred tool for developmental screening by the Governor's School Readiness Board Health Implementation Team in conjunction with the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzaAP). The tool is easy to administer and score and provides an on-going record of screenings.
  
3. Who should be screened using the PEDS Tool?
  - a. Every child needs to have a developmental screening as part of the EPSDT visit. All children born after 1/1/06 and reported as having been in the Nursery Intensive Care Unit (NICU) after birth should be screened using the PEDS Tool during their EPSDT visit.
  
4. What does this mean to me as a provider?
  - a. Effective 1/1/06, AHCCCS providers can bill for developmental screening with the PEDS tool in addition to the EPSDT visit for the babies that have been in the NICU. The PEDS tool can be utilized during all EPSDT visits for the NICU grads from 0-8 years of age.
  - b. If delays or potential delays are identified from the screening, referrals to specialists or for services are obtained via the Prior Authorization process as always.
  - c. In order to bill for the PEDS tool, providers need to complete training in use of the tool. The Health Plan must be notified following training and the score and interpretation form must be submitted with the EPSDT form to the Health Plan.
  - d. Providers must order hard copies of the PEDS tools for use in the office. These can be obtained on line at [www.pedstest.com](http://www.pedstest.com) or [www.forepath.com](http://www.forepath.com). Please be aware that making photocopies of the PEDS tools is a violation of copyright law. The cost of ordering

the PEDS forms considered when developing the reimbursement rates.

5. Where can I obtain the training?
  - a. Training can easily be accessed through the AzAAP webpage ([www.azaap.org](http://www.azaap.org)). Providers can complete the training on line. After the completion, each provider must notify Provider Services so their file can be updated.
  
6. What about billing?
  - a. When billing for the PEDS Tool use CPT code 96110 with an EP modifier. If you are identified as a PEDS Tool trained provider and the baby was in the NICU, the claim will be paid.
  - b. If you are billing the 96110 code and have not been trained, in addition to the claim being denied, you will be contacted by the Health Plan to discuss the reason for the denial and assist you with obtaining the appropriate training.
  - c. NOTE: Even if you have chosen not to be PEDS Tool trained, a developmental screening is required and included as part of an EPSDT visit and is not reimbursed separately.
  
7. How will I know the babies that are NICU grads?
  - a. The Health Plan is exploring methods to ensure your office is aware of the NICU grads. A letter will be sent to your office when a baby is known to us as being from the NICU. Please keep the letter in the baby's medical record for ease in office identification of these babies. Additionally, the Health Plan is working closely with AHCCCS and other health plans in the hopes that a consist method of identification can be developed and utilized by all health plans—such as a chart sticker.
  
8. Who do I talk with if I have additional questions?
  - a. You can contact your Provider Service Rep at ..... Or you can talk with the EPSDT staff at .....