

WELL-CHILD CARE

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I. CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODES

54150, 54160, 81000 - 81015, 81099, 83655, 84030, 84035, 85014, 85018, 86580, 86585, 90465 - 90468, 90471 - 90474, 90476 - 90748, 92002, 92004, 92012, 92014, 92015, 92551, 92585 - 92588, 99172, 99173, 99381 - 99383, 99391 - 99393, 99431, 99433, 99499.

II. DESCRIPTION

Well-child care includes routine newborn care, health supervision examinations, routine immunizations, periodic health screening, and developmental assessment in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines.

III. POLICY

Well-child care is covered for beneficiaries from birth to age six when services are provided by the attending pediatrician, family physician, ophthalmologist or optometrist, certified Nurse Practitioner (NP), or certified Physician Assistant (PA). Well-child services are considered preventive and are subject to the same cost sharing/copayment and authorization requirements prescribed under the TRICARE Prime and Standard Clinical Preventive Services benefits.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Visits for diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury are not included in the well-child benefit. Benefits should be extended on the basis of the medical necessity for the services.

B. For children whose health screening and immunizations may not be current, payment may be made for well-child visits and immunizations up to midnight of the day prior to the day the child turns six years old, and thereafter under the TRICARE Preventive Services (see [Chapter 7, Sections 2.1 and 2.2](#)).

C. Immunizations are covered for age appropriate dose of vaccines that have been recommended and adopted by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

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and accepted by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and published in a CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR). Refer to the CDC's home page (<http://www.cdc.gov>) for access to the MMWRs and a current schedule of CDC recommended vaccines.

Immunizations required by dependents of active duty military personnel who are traveling outside the United States as a result of an active duty member's duty assignment, and such travel is being performed under orders issued by a Uniformed Service, are covered.

NOTE: The procedure codes in this policy are not necessarily an all-inclusive list of vaccines currently recommended by the CDC's ACIP.

D. Well-child care for newborns includes the routine care of the newborn in the hospital, newborn circumcision, and newborn screening as recommended by the AAP. Covered newborn screenings include, but are not limited to, testing for hypothyroidism, phenylketonuria (PKU) hemoglobinopathies (refer to [paragraph IV.G.2.](#) for further details), and galactosemia. Only routine well-child care for newborns is covered as part of the mother's maternity episode, i.e., a separate cost-share is not required for the infant. If a circumcision is performed after the child has been discharged from the hospital, the service is cost-shared as an outpatient service (unless it qualifies for the special cost-sharing for ambulatory surgery). Separate professional claims must be submitted for the newborn and the mother.

E. A program of well-child care conducted according to the most current Guidelines for Health Supervision, AAP, is covered. Significant deviation from the guidelines requires justification. In any case, no more than nine well-baby visits in two years are covered.

F. Each office visit for well-child care includes the following services:

1. History and physical examination and mental health assessment.
2. Developmental and behavioral appraisal.
 - a. Height and weight should be measured regularly throughout infancy and childhood.
 - b. Head circumference should be measured for children through 24 months of age.
 - c. Sensory screening: vision, hearing (by history).
 - (1) Eye and vision screening by primary care provider during routine examination at birth, and approximately six months of age.
 - (2) All high risk neonates (as defined by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing) should undergo audiology screening before leaving the hospital. If not tested at birth, high-risk children should be tested before three months of age using Evoked Otoacoustic Emission (EOE) and/or Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing.

(3) All children should undergo hearing screening (by history) at each well-child visit, and children with possible hearing impairments should be referred for appropriate testing.

- d. Dental screenings.
- e. Discussion with parents, anticipatory guidance.

G. The following specific services are covered in a program of well-child care:

1. Immunizations are covered for age appropriate dose of vaccines that have been recommended and adopted by the ACIP and accepted by the Director of the CDC and the Secretary of HHS and published in a CDC MMWR. Immunizations required by dependents of active duty military personnel who are traveling outside the United States as a result of an active duty member's duty assignment, and such travel is being performed under orders issued by a Uniformed Service.

2. Heredity and metabolic screening:

a. Two screening tests for PKU, one prior to discharge from the hospital nursery and the other within one to two weeks after hospital discharge.

b. All neonates should be screened for congenital hypothyroidism prior to discharge from the hospital nursery but not later than day six of life.

c. Screening for hemoglobinophies should be done for those in high-risk ethnic groups.

3. Tuberculin test: at 12 months of age and once during second year of age.

4. Hemoglobin or hematocrit testing: once during first year of age, once during second year of age.

5. Urinalysis: once during first year of age, once during second year of age.

6. Annual blood pressure screening for children between three and six years of age.

7. Blood lead test: (CPT² procedure code 83655): Assessment of risk for lead exposure by structured questionnaire based on CDC's Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young (October 1991) during each well-child visit from age six months to under six years of age.

8. Health guidance and counseling, including breast feeding and nutrition counseling.

9. One routine eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist every two years beginning at age three. The routine eye exams offered between the ages of three and six should include screening for amblyopia and strabismus.

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10. Additional services or visits required because of specific findings or because the particular circumstances of the individual case are covered if medically necessary and otherwise authorized for benefits.

H. Well-child services are considered preventive and are subject to the same cost-sharing/copayment and authorization requirements as prescribed under TRICARE Preventive Services (refer to [Chapter 7, Sections 2.1](#) and [2.2](#)).

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