

Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care

Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics



Each child and family is unique; therefore, these Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care are designed for the care of children who are receiving nurturing parenting, have no manifestations of any important health problems, and are growing and developing in a satisfactory fashion. Developmental, psychosocial, and chronic disease issues for children and adolescents may require more frequent counseling and treatment visits separate from preventive care visits. Additional visits also may become necessary if circumstances suggest concerns. These recommendations represent a consensus by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Bright Futures. The AAP continues to emphasize the great importance of continuity of care in comprehensive health supervision and the need to avoid fragmentation of care.

Refer to the specific guidance by age as listed in the Bright Futures Guidelines (Hagan JF, Shaw JS, Duncan PM, eds. *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*. 4th ed. American Academy of Pediatrics; 2017).

The recommendations in this statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

The Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care are updated annually.

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AGE/ HISTORY Initial/Interval	INFANCY									EARLY CHILDHOOD								MIDDLE CHILDHOOD							ADOLESCENCE												
	Prenatal ^a	Newborn ^b	3-5 d ^c	By 1 mo	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo	9 mo	12 mo	15 mo	18 mo	24 mo	30 mo	3 y	4 y	5 y	6 y	7 y	8 y	9 y	10 y	11 y	12 y	13 y	14 y	15 y	16 y	17 y	18 y	19 y	20 y	21 y					
MEASUREMENTS																																					
Length/Height and Weight	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Head Circumference	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Weight for Length	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Body Mass Index ^d																																					
Blood Pressure ^e	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★				
SENSORY SCREENING																																					
Vision ^f	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★				
Hearing ^g	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
DEVELOPMENTAL/SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH																																					
Maternal Depression Screening ^h									●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Developmental Screening ⁱ									●																												
Autism Spectrum Disorder Screening ^j																																					
Developmental Surveillance	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening ^k	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Tobacco, Alcohol, or Drug Use Assessment ^l																																					
Depression and Suicide Risk Screening ^m																																					
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION ⁿ																																					
PROCEDURES ^o																																					
Newborn Blood	● ^p	● ^p																																			
Newborn Bilirubin ^q	●	●																																			
Critical Congenital Heart Defect ^r																																					
Immunization ^s	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Anemia ^t									★									★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Lead ^u									★	★	● or ★ ^v							★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Tuberculosis ^w									★	★	★							★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Dyslipidemia ^x																																					
Sexually Transmitted Infections ^y																																					
HIV ^z																																					
Hepatitis B Virus Infection ^{aa}	★																																				
Hepatitis C Virus Infection ^{ab}																																					
Sudden Cardiac Arrest/Death ^{ac}																																					
Cervical Dysplasia ^{ad}																																					
ORAL HEALTH ^{ae}	● ^{af}	● ^{af}	★						★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		
Fluoride Varnish ^{ag}			←															→																			
Fluoride Supplementation ^{ah}	★	★	★						★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		
ANTICIPIATORY GUIDANCE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		

- If a child comes under care for the first time at any point on the schedule, or if any items are not accomplished at the suggested age, the schedule should be brought up to date at the earliest possible time.
- A parent should be present for parents who request to be present during the visit, and for those who request a conference, the prenatal visit should include a history of substance use, pertinent medical history, and a discussion of benefits of breastfeeding and planned method of feeding, per "The Prenatal Visit" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-1238>).
- Newborns should have an evaluation after birth, and breastfeeding should be encouraged (and instruction and support should be offered).
- Newborns should have an evaluation within 3 to 5 days of birth and within 48 to 72 hours after discharge from the hospital to include evaluation for feeding and jaundice. Breastfeeding newborns should receive formal breastfeeding evaluation, and their mothers should receive encouragement and instruction, as recommended in "Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-3552>). Newborns discharged less than 48 hours after delivery must be examined within 48 hours of discharge, per "Hospital Stay for Healthy Term Newborn Infants" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-0699>).
- Screen, per "Expert Committee Recommendations Regarding the Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity: Summary Report" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2007-2390>).
- Screening for your patient population for the presence and management of High Blood Pressure in Children and Adolescents" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-1854>). Blood pressure measurement in infants and children with specific risk conditions should be performed at visits before age 3 years.
- A visual acuity screen is recommended at ages 12 and 24 months, in addition to the well visits at 3 through 5 years of age. See "Visual System Assessment in Infants, Children, and Young Adults by Pediatricians" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-3596>) and "Procedures for the Evaluation of the Visual System by Pediatricians" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-3597>).
- Confirm initial screen was completed, verify results, and follow up, as appropriate. Newborns should be screened, per "Year 2007 Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2007-2333>).
- Verify results as soon as possible, and follow up, as appropriate.
- Screen with audiometry including 6,000 and 8,000 Hz high frequencies once between 11 and 14 years, once between 15 and 17 years, and once between 18 and 21 years. See "The Sensitivity of Adolescent Hearing Screens Significantly Improves by Adding Audiometry" (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/piis/S1054513916000483>).
- Screening should occur per "Promoting Recognition and Management of Perinatal Depression Into Pediatric Practice" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-3239>).
- Screening should occur per "Promoting Optimal Development: Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders Through Developmental Surveillance and Screening" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-3449>).
- Screening should occur per "Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-3447>).

(continued)

KEY: ● = to be performed ★ = risk assessment to be performed with appropriate action to follow, if positive ← or → = range during which a service may be provided

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(continued)

14. Screen for behavioral and social-emotional problems per "Promoting Optimal Development: Screening for Behavioral and Emotional Problems" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2727>), "Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2727>), "Clinical Practice Guideline for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Anxiety Disorders" (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3239401/>), and "Screening for Anxiety in Adolescent and Adult Women: A Recommendation From the Women's Preventive Services Initiative" (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32510990/>). The screening should be family centered and may include asking about caregiver emotional and mental health concerns and social determinants of health, racism, poverty, and relational health. See "Poverty and Child Health in the United States" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2765>), "The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2765>), and "Preventing Childhood Toxic Stress: Partnering With Families and Communities to Promote Relational Health" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-05282>).
15. A recommended assessment tool is available at <http://eapf.org>.
16. Screen adolescents for depression and suicide risk, making every effort to preserve confidentiality of the adolescent. See "Guidelines for Adolescent Depression in Primary Care (GLAD-PC): Part I. Practice Preparation, Identification, Assessment, and Initial Management" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-4081>), "Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2727>), "Suicide and Suicide Attempts in Adolescents" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2428>), and "The 21st Century Cures Act & Adolescent Confidentiality" ([https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-\(I\)/NASPAG-SAHM-Statement.aspx](https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-(I)/NASPAG-SAHM-Statement.aspx)).
17. At each visit, age-appropriate physical examination is essential, with infant totally unclothed and older children undressed and suitably draped. See "Use of Chaperones During the Physical Examination of the Pediatric Patient" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-0322>).
18. These may be modified, depending on entry point into schedule and individual need.
19. Confirm initial screen was accomplished, with results, and follow up, as appropriate. The following links are available: <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committee/heritable-disorders-chip/index.html>, as determined by The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, and state newborn screening laws/regulations (<http://www.babyfirsttest.org>) to establish the criteria for and coverage of newborn screening procedures and programs.
20. Verify results as soon as possible, and follow up, as appropriate.
21. Confirm initial screening was accomplished, verify results, and follow up, as appropriate. See "Hyperbilirubinemia in the Newborn Infant <35 Weeks' Gestation: An Update With Clarifications" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2009-0329>).
22. Screening for lead exposure in children. Appropriate lead screening should be performed in newborns, after 24 hours of age, before discharge from the hospital, per "Endorsement of Health and Human Services Recommendation for Pulse Oximetry Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-3211>).
23. Schedules, per the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, are available at <https://publications.aap.org/redbook/pages/immunization-schedules>. Every visit should be an opportunity to update and complete a child's immunizations.
24. Perform risk assessment or screening, as appropriate, per recommendations in the current edition of the AAP Pediatric Nutrition Policy of the American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-034637>).
25. For children at risk of lead exposure, see "Prevention of Childhood Lead Toxicity" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-1493>) and "Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention" (https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/docs/final_document_030712.pdf).
26. Perform risk assessments or screenings as appropriate, based on universal screening requirements for patients with Medicaid or in high prevalence areas.
27. Tuberculosis testing per recommendations of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, published in the current edition of the AAP Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, should be performed as part of screening for other risk factors. See "Integrated Guidelines for Cardiovascular Health and Risk Reduction in Children and Adolescents" (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/guidelines/cvd_ped/index.html).
28. Adolescents should be screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) per recommendations in the current edition of the AAP Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Summary of Changes Made to the Bright Futures/AAP Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care (Periodicity Schedule)

This schedule reflects changes approved in December 2022 and published in April 2023. For updates and a list of previous changes made, visit www.aap.org/periodicityschedule.

CHANGES MADE IN DECEMBER 2022

HIV

The HIV screening recommendation has been updated to extend the upper age limit from 18 to 21 years (to account for the range in which the screening can take place) to align with recommendations of the US Preventive Services Task Force and AAP policy ("Adolescents and Young Adults: The Pediatrician's Role in HIV Testing and Pre- and Postexposure HIV Prophylaxis" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-055207>)).

- 31. Perform a risk assessment for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection according to recommendation per the USPSTF (<https://www.usspft.org/uspstf/recommendation/hepatitis-b-virus-infection-screening>) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6902a1.htm>) at least once between the ages of 18 and 29. Those at increased risk of HBV infection, including those who are persons with past or current injection drug use, should be tested for HBV infection and reassessed annually.
- 32. All individuals should be screened for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection according to the USPSTF (<https://www.usspft.org/uspstf/recommendation/hepatitis-c-screening>) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6902a1.htm>) at least once between the ages of 18 and 79. Those at increased risk of HCV infection, including those who are persons with past or current injection drug use, should be tested for HCV infection and reassessed annually.

- 33. Perform a risk assessment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection according to "Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection: Screening" (<https://www.usspft.org/uspstf/recommendation/hepatitis-c-virus-hiv-infection-screening>); after initial screening, youth at increased risk of HIV infection should be retested annually or more frequently, as per "Adolescents and Young Adults: The Pediatrician's Role in HIV Testing and Pre- and Postexposure HIV Prophylaxis" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-055207>).

CHANGES MADE IN NOVEMBER 2022

HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION

Assessing risk for HBV infection has been added to occur from newborn to 21 years (to account for the range in which the risk assessment can take place) to be consistent with recommendations of the USPSTF and the 2021–2024 edition of the AAP Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases.

- Footnote 31 has been added to read as follows: "Perform a risk assessment for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection according to recommendations per the USPSTF (<https://www.usspft.org/uspstf/recommendation/hepatitis-b-virus-infection-screening>) and in the 2021–2024 edition of the AAP Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, making every effort to preserve confidentiality of the patient."

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AND SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

Assessing risk for sudden cardiac arrest and sudden cardiac death has been added to occur from 11 to 21 years (to account for the range in which the risk assessment can take place) to be consistent with AAP policy ("Sudden Death in the Young: Information for the Primary Care Provider").

- Footnote 33 has been added to read as follows: "Perform a risk assessment, as appropriate, per Sudden Death in the Young: Information for the Primary Care Provider" (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052044>.)

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE RISK

Screening for suicide risk has been added to the existing depression screening recommendation to be consistent with the GLAD-PC and AAP policy.

- Footnote 16 has been updated to read as follows: "Screen adolescents for depression and suicide risk, making every effort to preserve confidentiality of the adolescent. See 'Guidelines for Adolescent Depression in Primary Care (GLAD-PC): Part I. Practice Preparation, Identification, Assessment, and Initial Management' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-4081>), 'Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2727>), 'Suicide and Suicide Attempts in Adolescents' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-2428>), and 'The 21st Century Cures Act & Adolescent Confidentiality' ([https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-\(I\)/NASPAG-SAHM-Statement.aspx](https://www.adolescenthealth.org/Advocacy/Advocacy-Activities/2019-(I)/NASPAG-SAHM-Statement.aspx)).

BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

The Psychosocial/Behavioral Assessment recommendation has been updated to Behavioral/Social/Emotional Screening (annually from newborn to 21 years) to align with AAP policy, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (Women's Preventive Services Initiative) recommendations, and the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry guidelines.

- Footnote 14 has been updated to read as follows: "Screen for behavioral and social-emotional problems per 'Promoting Optimal Development: Screening for Behavioral and Emotional Problems' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2014-3716>), 'Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-2727>), 'Clinical Practice Guideline for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Anxiety Disorders' (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3239401/>), and 'Screening for Anxiety in Adolescent and Adult Women: A Recommendation From the Women's Preventive Services Initiative' (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32510990/>). The screening should be family centered and may include asking about caregiver emotional and mental health concerns and social determinants of health, racism, poverty, and relational health. See 'Poverty and Child Health in the United States' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-0339>), 'The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1765>), and 'Preventing Childhood Toxic Stress: Partnering With Families and Communities to Promote Relational Health' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-05282>)."*

FLUORIDE VARNISH

- Footnote 33 has been updated to read as follows: "The USPSTF recommends that primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption (<https://www.usspft.org/uspstf/recommendation/prevention-of-dental-caries-in-children-younger-than-age-3-years-screening-and-interventions>). Once teeth are present, apply fluoride varnish to all children every 3 to 6 months in the primary dental office based on caries risk. Indications for fluoride use are noted in 'Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2010-034637>)."

FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTATION

- Footnote 38 has been updated to read as follows: "If primary water source is deficient in fluoride, consider oral fluoride supplementation. See 'Fluoride Use in Caries Prevention in the Primary Care Setting' (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-034637>)."*