

## QUICK REFERENCE: SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT CODES

Code	Purpose	Examples (not all inclusive)	Notes
96110	Childhood instrument-based screening for failure to develop and/or achieve skills according to the expected time frame (e.g., expressive and receptive language, motor skills)	Ages & Stages Questionnaires Third Edition, Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status, and Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers Revised With Follow-Up	Use for developmental and autism screening.
96127	Instrument-based assessment of potential emotional and/or behavioral problems (e.g., depression, attention-deficit)	Patient Health Questionnaire-9, Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (administered for the benefit of the mother), and NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scales	Use for both screening and follow-up of emotional and behavioral health conditions.  Report HCPCS code G0444 for depression screening in lieu of code 96127 for Medicare Part B patients.
96160	Instrument-based assessment of the patient's risk for certain health conditions, behaviors that may negatively impact health, and pros and cons for initiating behavior change	Mini Nutritional Assessment - Short Form, Acute Concussion Evaluation, Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test, CRAFFT (Care, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble), and HEEADSSS (Home, Education, Eating, Activities, Drugs and Alcohol, Suicide and Depression, Sexuality and Safety)	Some payers require reporting 96127 for HEEADSSS and CRAFFT screenings.  If brief intervention for alcohol or substance abuse (at least 15 minutes) is also provided, report codes 99408 – 99409 based on time.
96161	Instrument-based assessment of the caregiver's risk for certain health conditions that may impact his or her ability to care for the patient	Safe Environment for Every Kid, Caregiver Strain Index, and Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (administered for benefit of the child)	Report code 96161 for a health risk assessment when focused on caregiver risk that may impact the patient's health (e.g., postpartum depression).

Note: Because confusion about these codes is common, you should verify your payers' policies. For instance, some plans require reporting of code 96160 for depression screening other than postpartum depression even though code 96127 is intended for reporting this service. Also, some brief assessment instruments such as the Epworth Sleepiness Scale may be considered an HRA by some payers but bundled with a diagnostic evaluation and management service by others.



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