

Date: 03/23/2020

Medi-Cal

Important Provider Notice: #370

Subject: ACES Screening Codes G9919 and G9920 - Effective 1/1/2020

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2020, screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) becomes a Medi-Cal/Partnership Healthplan of California (PHC) benefit. PHC will begin reimbursing for ACEs screening for both children and adults up to age 65 years, except for those dually eligible for Medicare Part B/Medi-Cal, with Proposition 56 funds. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Indian Health Services (IHS) — Memorandum of Agreement (IHS-MOA) 638 Clinics will also be able to receive these payments, in addition to their Prospective Payment System (PPS) and all-inclusive per-visit reimbursement.

ACEs screenings for individuals under the age of 21 years will be reimbursed no more than once per year, per provider. Screenings for individuals 21 years and older will only be reimbursed once per lifetime, per provider.

The required screening tool for use by providers is the top portion of the Pediatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener (PEARLS) for individuals under 18 years of age and the ACEs questionnaire for individuals 20 years of age and older. For individuals 18 and 19 years of age, either tool may be utilized. If an alternative version of the ACEs questionnaire for individuals 20 years of age and older is used, it must contain questions on the 10 original categories of ACEs to qualify.

ACEs screenings will be reimbursed in both the fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems when billed with either of the two HCPCS codes below:

- G9919 – High-risk, patient score of 4 or greater
- G9920 – Lower-risk, patient score of 0 – 3

All providers will be reimbursed at the Medi-Cal rate of \$29.00.

Billing requires that the completed screen was reviewed, the appropriate tool was used, results were documented and interpreted, results were discussed with the beneficiary and/or family and any clinically appropriate actions were taken. This documentation should remain in the beneficiary's medical record and be available upon request.

In order to be eligible for the trauma payment after July 1, 2020, providers must complete the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) training for ACEs screening and trauma-informed care. In December 2019, DHCS will launch <http://www.ACEsAware.org> which will post information on DHCS' provider training and other resources.

For more information, providers may visit the [DHCS Trauma Screenings and Trauma-Informed Care](#) webpage.