



CCNC Pediatrics: Autism Screening

North Carolina Medicaid has required screening for Autism since 2010. The purpose of **screening** is **early identification** of those children at risk which leads to **early assessment** and ultimately **early treatment**.

As of 2015, Autism now affects 1 in every 58 children in North Carolina

Key Points:

- Screening \neq Diagnosis \rightarrow A complete assessment is required for diagnosis of Autism.
- Surveillance for Autism should occur at every medical visit.
- Autism **screening** should be completed at the **18 and 24 month** well-child visit.
- Using a validated screening tool (such as the MCHAT R/F) is a NC Medicaid requirement.

For Positive Screens:

- AAP recommends referral for:
 1. Audiologic evaluation
 2. Complete assessment & evaluation
 3. Early Intervention services:
 - a. Referral to CDSA for children ages 1-3
 - b. For children age 3-Kindergarten, refer to a local school system's Pre-school Exceptional Children's Program

Billing, Coding and Reimbursement:

- Medicaid- An EP Modifier is required when billing Medicaid during a well-visit
 - 96110 EP for MCHAT R/F
- As of 2016, Medicaid reimbursement rate for MCHAT R/F is \$8.49

References:

- MCHAT screen is available free of charge at:
<https://www.mchat.org/references/mchatdotorg.pdf>