

Age appropriate validated screening tools for Hawki members

Summary: Primary care providers, mental health providers and substance use disorder providers should use validated assessment tools for behavioral health and substance use disorders when seeing Hawki members. The following is a list of validated assessment tools for primary care providers, mental health providers and substance use providers when screening for behavioral health and substance use disorders in children.

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. expects all pediatric healthcare professionals to identify and screen children with serious behavioral health conditions that, if left untreated, may cause serious disruption in development. Early identification is critical to the wellbeing of children and their families. Screenings or assessments should occur using validated assessment tools.

Amerigroup does not prescribe a specific screening tool to be used by providers. However, Amerigroup expects screening protocols to align with expertise and individualized practice patterns for children. Screening tools used in a pediatric medical practice may be very different from a screening completed by a behavioral health practitioner.

Potential screening tools for use in pediatric medical clinics:

- The Children with Special Health Care Needs Screener (CSHCN) operationalizes the Maternal Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration's definition of CSHCN. This screener focuses on the health consequences a child experiences as a result of having an ongoing health condition rather than on the presence of a specific diagnosis or type of disability. This screener has broad applicability and is easy to use.
- The Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17 is the short version of a validated, reliable instrument that assesses child psychiatric symptoms and identifies those in need of a more in-depth assessment.
- The Vanderbilt Assessment Scale provides a measure of symptoms assessment and impairment of performance.

Amerigroup makes additional screening tools available for providers located at <https://providers.amerigroup.com/IA> under *Provider Resources and Documents (Screenings)*.

Additional resources for screening tools for use in behavioral health and substance use disorder clinics:

- For substance use disorder assessments, the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is the validated assessment tool.
- For mental health assessments, American Academy of Pediatrics' Bright Futures provides examples of validated assessment tools, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2HDsGhN>.
- Providers may also reference Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for preventive pediatric health care (periodicity schedule) found at <https://bit.ly/3jz3OFo>.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-800-454-3730**.