

MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SERVICES PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 4

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(D), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is required to submit an evaluation that measures the degree to which the directed payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives in the DHCS Quality Strategy. This evaluation will assess the performance and results of the Proposition 56 Developmental Screening Services Directed Payment Program implementation during the CY 2023.

The Proposition 56 Developmental Screening Directed Payment Program directs Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) to make uniform dollar add-on payments for specific developmental screening services. This directed payment program supports network providers to provide critical services to Medi-Cal managed care members.

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS

The Proposition 56 Developmental Screening Directed Payment Program is expected to enhance the quality of care by improving encounter data submissions by providers to better target those areas where improved performance will have the greatest effect on health outcomes. The CMS-approved evaluation design features one evaluation question:

1. Do higher provider payments, via the proposed Program Year (PY) 4 directed payments, serve to maintain or improve the performance of developmental screenings in the First Three Years of Life for the Managed Care population?

EVALUATION DATA SOURCES AND MEASURES

To measure changes in utilization pattern, DHCS calculated rates of Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life (DEV-CH) for Managed care members. Data was extracted from the DHCS Managed care data from the Management Information System/Decision Support System (MIS/DSS), spanning service dates in CY 2020 through CY 2023. DHCS evaluated service utilization for DEV-CH in accordance with current Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Core Set Technical Specifications to determine the percentage of children documented to have been screened for risk of developmental, behavioral, and social delays using a standardized screening tool in the 12 months preceding or on their first, second, or third birthday

as well as the combined rate for all age groups.

Table: Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Live (DEV) – Change Across Time Comparing MY 2021 (Baseline Period) and MY 2023 (Current Reporting Period)

Metric	2021 (baseline)	2022	2023	Performance Target	Percentage Point Change	2021 to 2023 Comparison
Age of 1 Year	26.4%	27.3%	37.1%	2%	10.7%	▲
Age of 2 Years	33.6%	38.9%	45.5%	2%	11.9%	▲
Age of 3 Years	26.0%	33.8%	36.1%	2%	10.1%	▲
Total	28.8%	38.5%	39.6%	2%	10.9%	▲

▲Indicates a statistically significant improvement in the 2023 rate compared to baseline.

Developmental screening service rates increased across all age groups in CY 2023 compared to the Baseline Period.

- Overall, there is a 10.9% increase for all age groups in utilization of developmental screening service in CY 2023 compared to the baseline period.
- There is a 10.7% increase for the 1-year age group in utilization of developmental screening service in CY 2023 compared to the baseline period.
- There is a 11.9% increase for the 2-year age group in utilization of developmental screening service in CY 2023 compared to the baseline period.
- There is a 10.1% increase for the 3-year age group in utilization of developmental screening service in CY 2023 compared to the baseline period.
- The Fisher exact test was used to determine if there were a significant association between time and screening rates (comparing CY 2023 to the baseline period). There was a statistically significant association over time (two-tailed $p = <.0001$).

LIMITATIONS OF EVALUATION

The results presented here suggest that the directed payment programs may have had positive impacts on service utilization.

However, we cannot separate changes attributable to the directed payment programs from other secular changes such as technology advancements occurring across the health system, provider supply, or other factors.

CONCLUSIONS

DHCS' examination of the Baseline Period (CY 2021) and CY 2023 shows that developmental screening rates significantly increased for all age groups during CY 2023 compared to the Baseline Period.