

Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines 2023

Process Summary

The Update Process

The Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (LDSG) serve as a resource to guide and inform providers of the current recommendations for developmental screening best practices. The guidelines reflect guidance and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and informed by Louisiana residents, providers, content experts, and current state legislation.

As research, recommendations, and legislation continue to evolve, the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health (BFH) strives to stay abreast of all state and national updates involving developmental screening practices. The LDSG committee will conduct a biennial comprehensive review of the guidelines to ensure partners and providers have the latest information presented clearly and concisely. During the review process, a committee composed of relevant content experts, family representatives, community partners, and executive administrators convene to review current early childhood developmental health, scientific questions, research, recommendations, and legislation to determine if any updates or modifications are required to the LDSG screening domains (screening tools, graphics, formatting, content, and verbiage).

The committee submits recommendations and supporting research to justify any updates and recommendations following the LDSG update process outlined in this document. After the update process, the committee votes on the appropriate modifications or lack thereof and submits recommendations for administrative approval.

Criteria examined for each domain:

- *Name of the domain:* up-to-date, clear and representative of the domain
- *Periodicity Schedule:* aligned with AAP & Louisiana Medicaid and clearly differentiates recommendations by organization/subject
- *Screening Tools:* evidence-based, reliable and validated, parent completed, easily accessible (multiple languages, reading level)
- *Screening Tool Table:* Visual appeal, clarity, structure and format, text and written content

Summary of Changes

In 2015, the Young Child Wellness Collaborative Developmental Screening Workgroup convened to develop the Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines. In 2020, the first review and update was conducted to ensure the existing guidelines, including screening tool recommendations and periodicity schedule, remained up-to-date and aligned with the guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Louisiana Medicaid.

In 2023, a formal process for conducting LDSG updates was created and adopted by the Bureau of Family Health. The process outlined the timeline, roles and responsibilities of committee members and process for submitting recommendations for approval. During the 4-month review cycle, the committee and various subcommittees met to discuss each domain to provide informed and evidence-based recommendations for any needed modifications to the guidelines. The LDSG committee members are Louisiana content experts in the areas of public health, early childhood education, mental health, behavior psychology, early childhood development, primary healthcare and pediatrics. These individuals convene to review the guidelines to determine if any updates are needed to comply with current Louisiana legislation and national and state AAP and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommendations and standards. In addition to the content experts, the committee will also retain administrator level members who serve as members-at-large. The members-at-large provide feedback and recommendations to subcommittees during general body committee meetings. The various subgroup recommendations yielded the changes:

- **General Development:** The domain title General Development will not change. The *Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3rd Edition (ASQ-3)* will remain as a recommended screening instrument. The *Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status-Revised (PEDS-R)* and *Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children (SWYC)* were added to the list of recommended screening tools. Research and current use by Louisiana pediatricians show no significant difference in effectiveness between the ASQ-3, PEDS-R or SWYC with identification of developmental risk or delay or referral when risk is identified through screening. The addition of these two instruments will allow providers to select the best fitting recommended screener for their clinic population without compromising the validity and reliability of the methodology.
- **Autism:** The domain title Autism will not change. No changes were made to the recommended screening tools. The *Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT R/F)* remains the only recommended screening tool for the Autism domain.
- **Perinatal Depression:** The domain title Perinatal Depression will not change. The recommended screening tools will not change. The Perinatal Depression row on the Screening Tool Table was divided into two sections 1) Pediatric Visits and 2) Perinatal Visits. Under each section, the

recommended screening tools related to the visit types are listed. No new screening tools were added. No screening tools were removed.

- **Social Emotional:** The domain title will change from Social Emotional to Social *and* Emotional. In 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education changed the name of the Social Emotional standards to Social and Emotional. To provide consistency between both state agencies, the LDSG domain title was changed to align.
- **Barriers to Health:** The domain title Barriers to Health will not change. No additional screening tools were added. No screening tools were removed.

Consideration

While the LDSG are voluntary, the recommendations represent a vetted and fitting group of screening instruments for the Louisiana population. It is also important to note the LDSG recommended instruments are not the only tools identified by the AAP, or reimbursable by Medicaid. When updating and considering modifications to the LDSG, the committee took into full account the diverse needs of Louisiana's families and young children.

When selecting and evaluation the screening tools to be listed, subgroup members were asked to take into account various factors such as:

- Screening tool usage and availability
- Current state legislation and Medicaid policy
- Number of recommended screening tools per domain
- Languages, population-appropriate reading level
- Estimated time to complete screener and cost (if any)

LDSG Periodicity Schedule

Updated Version

Domain	Age in Months											
	1	2	4	6	9	12	18	24	30	36	48	60
General Development												
Autism												
Perinatal Depression												
Social and Emotional												
Barriers to Health												

*The above guidance represents screening conducted at well-child visits according to Louisiana Medicaid

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines
- Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines
- Surveillance and Monitoring

Previous Version: [Developmental Screening Toolkit Homepage | La Dept. of Health](#)

Domain	Age in Months											
	1	2	4	6	9	12	18	24	30	36	48	60
General Development												
Autism												
Perinatal Depression												
Social and Emotional												
Barriers to Health												

*The above guidance represents screening conducted at well-child visits according to Louisiana Medicaid

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Guidelines
- Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines (both colors)

The periodicity schedule screening intervals remain unchanged across all domains. The previous domain title *Social Emotional* changed to Social and Emotional. All other domain titles remain unchanged. The structure of the table remains the same. The legend at the bottom of the graphic displaying the colored blocks and respective significance were changed to clarify the distinction

between what is recommended by the AAP, LDSG and what represents surveillance and monitoring. The block colors that signify recommendations from the AAP and LDSG have each been separated. The colors for each remain the same. Previously all other intervals without a recommendation from AAP and/or LDSG were shaded white. The current table shows the change from white to light grey representing intervals where surveillance and monitoring should take place. This change was done to highlight surveillance and monitoring should be done during all intervals. Additionally, a statement below the table was added to add clarity to the relevance of the LDSG table with Louisiana Medicaid guidance.

LDSG Screening Tool Table

Updated Version

Domain	Recommended Instruments	
General Development	Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 rd Edition (ASQ-3) Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children (SWYC) Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status-Revised (PEDS-R)	
Autism	Modified-Checklist for Autism in Toddlers-Revised w/Follow-up (M-CHAT-R/F)	
Perinatal Depression	Well-Child Visits	Caregiver Visits
	Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)	Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)
Social and Emotional	Brief-Early Childhood Screening Assessment (ECSA) Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional-2 nd Edition (ASQ:SE-2)	
Barriers to Health	Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children: Family Questions	

Previous Version: [Developmental Screening Toolkit Homepage | La Dept. of Health](#)

Domain	Recommended Instruments
General Development	Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 rd Edition (ASQ-3)
Autism	Modified-Checklist for Autism in Toddlers-Revised w/Follow-up (M-CHAT-R/F)
Perinatal Depression	Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2), Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9), Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK), Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS)
Social Emotional	Brief-Early Childhood Screening Assessment (ECSA), Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional-2 nd Edition (ASQ:SE-2)
Barriers to Health	Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK), Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children: Family Questions

Several changes were recommended for the screening tool table. Two screening tools were added to the General Development domain (PEDS-R and the SWYC). The Autism, Social Emotional and Barriers to Health domains remained unchanged. The Perinatal Depression domain row was modified to include separate spaces within the table to designate screening tools used specifically for Well-Child Visits and those for Perinatal Visits. Each section includes a cell with the name of the visit type and below a list of the recommended screening tools for each designated visit type. The Well-Child Visit section lists four screening tools, and the Perinatal Visits section lists three recommended screening tools. Format changes for the screening tool table now lists instruments vertically (one tool per line) instead of in a narrative list.