

NCQA's HEDIS 2019 Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans

Well Child Visit Updates

These new specifications were released by NCQA in July of 2018 and have changes to specifications that may affect providers in their documentation of care. This documentation is necessary to close associated care gaps. These updates are related to the **3 well child measures** and affects records that are received through the medical record collection and abstraction process. It is the intent of Managed Health Services (MHS) to share as much information as possible with our provider network in order to support the quality care you provide for our members and capture that care in the documentation.

Below are the changes that have been identified:

All Well Child measures (AWC, W34, W15) (NCQA, 2018):

Physical Development – **NOT** Acceptable:

- Notation of “appropriate for age” is not specific enough by itself
- Notation of “well-developed” is not specific enough by itself

Mental Development – **NOT** Acceptable:

- Notation of “well-developed” is not specific enough by itself
- Notation of “appropriately responsive for age”

Documentation should have enough evidence that the provider assessed whether the member is developing appropriately physically and mentally for his/her age. The HEDIS Technical Specifications for these measures are based on the guidelines in the Bright Futures Pocket Guide (NCQA, 2018).

Acceptable documentation (NCQA, 2018):

- “Developing normally mentally and physically”
- “Normal growth and development”
- “Development appropriate for age”

Examples of other **acceptable** documentation for specific milestones (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018) include, but are not limited to:

- W15 – **Mental Development:** first words, smiles spontaneously
Physical Development: lifting the head, rolling over
- W34 - **Mental Development:** ability to speak understandably, identifies colors
Physical Development: ability to hop or throw a ball
- AWC - **Mental Development:** assessments and documentation of discussions related to concerns of depression, family problems, etc.
Physical Development: onset of puberty, growth spurts

American Academy of Pediatrics, (2018). *Bright futures guidelines pocket guide*. Retrieved from https://brightfutures.aap.org/Bright%20Futures%20Documents/BF4_POCKETGUIDE.pdf

NCQA, (2018). *Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Sets (HEDIS): Measurement year 2018*