



January 12, 2024

Dear Provider,

KHS has recently added a new feature to our Provider Portal which will allow you to retrieve members screening tools. Below is a brief description of the screening tools as well as a summary of their purpose.

1) Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

2) Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS)

- Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood which include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems (CDC, 2021).
- ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood (CDC, 2021). However, ACEs can be prevented.
- By screening for ACEs, providers can better determine the likelihood a patient is at increased health risk due to a toxic stress response.
- Providers must utilize the PEARLS tool or a qualifying ACEs questionnaire, as appropriate.
 - ✓ PEARLS for adolescent self-report tool, for ages 12-19, to be completed by the adolescent.
 - ✓ The ACE questionnaire may be used for adults (ages 18 years and older).
- HCPCS G9919: ACE score ≥ 4 , high risk for toxic stress
- HCPCS G9920: ACE score of 0 – 3, lower risk for toxic stress.

3) Social Determinants of Health (Billing Codes Z55-Z65)

- “Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life “(World Health Organization).
- Social determinants can dramatically impact physical and mental health outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations. Without resources, social determinants can foster troublesome circumstances leading to negative health outcomes, and include unsafe living conditions, food insecurity, poverty, and more.
- By screening for SDOH, providers can identify and manage patient’s risk and unmet needs.

4) General Practitioner Assessment of Cognition (GPCOG) Screening Tool

- The General Practitioner Assessment of Cognition (GPCOG) is a short screening tool for dementia.
- The screening is for individuals with memory concerns or other cognitive complaints.
- The benefits of early detection for patients (Alzheimer’s Association 2024):
 - ✓ Ensuring patients receive the most benefit from treatment options at the earliest point possible
 - ✓ More time to plan for the future and lessened anxieties about the unknown.
 - ✓ Access to care and support services, making it easier for them and their family to manage the changes that come with the disease.
- Use allowable CPT codes as outlined in the Medi-Cal Provider Manual. CPT 1494F is only applicable for Members 65 years of age and older with or without signs or symptoms of cognitive decline who do not have Medicare coverage.

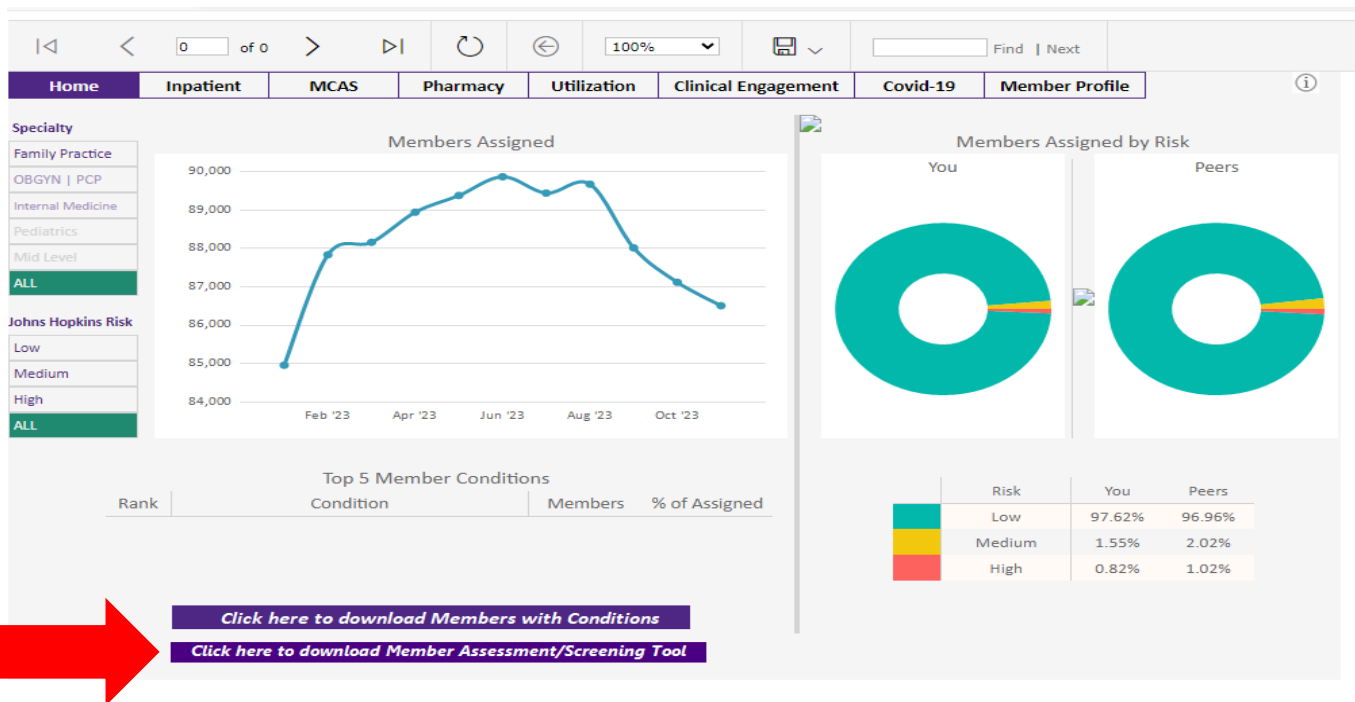


5) Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

- The CSHCN Screener screen children with chronic or special health care needs. To qualify as having chronic or special health care needs, the following criteria must be met:
 - ✓ The child currently experiences a specific consequence.
 - ✓ The consequence is due to a medical or other health condition.
 - ✓ The duration or expected duration of the condition is 12 months or longer.
- By screening for CSHCN, providers can refer patients to supportive/community services to ensure quality and access to care.

To access the screening tool in the KHS Provider Portal please follow the steps below:

- Go to the website: www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com
- Click on “Provider Portal”
- Enter your Username and Password
- Once the home screen populates, please click on “Provider Practice”.
- At the bottom of the page select “Click here to download Member Assessment/Screening Tool”. Screenshot below.



KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com, choose Provider, then Bulletins. For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000.

Sincerely,

Melissa McGuire
Deputy Director of Provider Network
Kern Health Systems