



August 21, 2023

All Plan Letter 23-017

Directed Payments for Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening Services

Dear Provider,

The Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) released All Plan Letter (APL 23-017), Directed Payments for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Screening Services on June 13, 2023, which supersedes APL 19-018.

The ACEs Program source of funding changed July 1, 2022, when it became a benefit and is no longer funded by Proposition 56.

ACEs screening evaluates children and adults for trauma which occurred from ages 0 to 18. There are age-appropriate screening tools available; the ACEs questionnaire for adult members 18 years and older and Pediatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener (PEARLS) for patients under the age of 18, which can be found at <https://www.acesaware.org/learn-about-screening/>.

As a reminder training is mandatory for Network Providers to be eligible for directed payments for the trauma screening services (Medicare Part B dually eligible patients are excluded). The DHCS will provide ACEs training for providers, and their staff. The online training will take approximately two hours to complete. For additional details regarding the training please visit <https://www.acesaware.org/learn-about-screening/training/>.

ACEs screenings may be conducted as many times as deemed medically necessary. For adult members, only one screening per lifetime will be reimbursable. One screening, per member, per year, will be reimbursable for patients under the age of 18.

To be eligible for the identified reimbursement providers must:

- ❖ Be included on the DHCS' list of providers who have completed the trauma-informed training
- ❖ Use the age-appropriate screening tool
- ❖ Maintain documentation and make readily available upon request the following:
 - Screening tool used
 - Screening was reviewed and documentation of the results
 - Discussion with member or member's family regarding appropriate medical action

PROVIDER Bulletin



KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

- ❖ Bill with the appropriate CPT code
 - G9919: Screening performed – results positive and provision of recommendations provided. This code is billed when the patient’s ACE score is 4 or greater.
 - G9920: Screening performed – results negative. This code is billed with the patient’s ACE score is 0-3.

Providers excluded from participation in Medicare or Medi-Cal/Medicaid Programs are also not eligible to receive ACE Screening Services add-on directed payment funds.

As a reminder, Kern Health Systems (KHS) will make two separate payments. The first payment will be for the original claim submission, paying per Medi-Cal fee schedule/or contracted rate. The second payment will occur the following month for the supplemental payment amount outlined in the APL. KHS utilizes PaySpan to provide remittance advice which will include sufficient information to uniquely identify the qualifying service for which payment was made. To obtain access to PaySpan, please contact 877-331-7154.

Payment will be made in accordance based on the timely payments standards outlined in the contract for a clean claim or accepted encounter which meets the criteria outlined above. General claim processing rules apply.

Additional information regarding APL 23-017, Directed Payments for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Screening Services, is available on the State of California – Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services website:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-017.pdf>

Providers wishing to file a grievance as a result of payment or process issues related to APL 23-017, or for any additional questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 800-391-2000 or reference KHS Policy 4.03-P, Provider Disputes Regarding Issues other than Claims:

<https://www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com/providers/policies-and-procedures/>

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