

Trauma Screening: The Why, How, and Now What...

Why:

Screening for Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) and toxic stress and providing targeted, evidence-based interventions for toxic stress can improve efficacy and efficiency of health care, better support individual and family health and well-being, and reduce long-term health costs. Effective January 1, 2020, DHCS began paying Medi-Cal providers for conducting ACE screenings for children and adults up to age 65 with full-scope Medi-Cal. The Office of the California Surgeon General and DHCS are partnering with organizations across the health care system to ensure that these providers have the training, tools, and resources they need to effectively incorporate ACE screening into patient care.

How:

Proposition 56 supplemental funds: When the [ACEs training](#) and [attestation](#) have been completed, you will be eligible to receive \$29 for completed trauma screenings.

Description	Age	CPT	Telehealth
Trauma screening - positive with patient score of 4 or greater	All	G9919	Yes
Trauma screening - negative with patient score of 0-3	All	G9920	Yes

There are **three versions** of the tool based on age, reporter, and format:

Tool	Age	Completed by
PEARLS for children	0-11	Caregiver
PEARLS for adolescents	12-19	Caregiver
PEARLS for adolescents	12-19	Adolescent
ACEs for adults	20+	Adult

Now what:

After you have screened your patient and there is a positive score, indicating a past or current risk factor that may result in poor health outcomes. What can you do?

- Ask your patient what they want to do, what they need
- DHCS has modified outpatient mental health benefit to include family therapy
- Provide the attached SCFHP resource list directly to patient/parent/guardian
- Referral to county Call Center for Behavioral Health screening
- Referral to SCFHP to assist with a list of contracted providers

Ongoing resources and trainings:

- Upcoming peer to peer convening's in our County: More info to come
- Visit the [ACEs Aware website](#) for webinars on various topics related to ACEs and Trauma Informed Care

Sources:

ACEs Aware at www.acesaware.org
 Link to [Trauma Resource list](#)
 Link to [Aunt Bertha](#)
 Link to [County Behavioral Services](#)

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