



## **2019-2020 Kids Quality Agenda Performance Improvement Project**

Affinity Health Plan will participate in New York State's Medicaid Managed Care Kids Quality Agenda Performance Improvement Project (Kids PIP) from 2019-2020. The Kids PIP is part of the governor's First 1,000 Days on Medicaid initiative, and aims to improve outcomes and access to services for children in the first three years of life. Running from the second half of 2019 through the end of 2020 (with extension if the program shows success), the Kids PIP will focus on three early childhood screenings: blood lead testing and follow-up, newborn hearing loss and follow-up, and developmental screening.

### **Lead Testing**

The standards for testing and follow-up for lead have changed. Affinity urges providers to adhere to the latest CDC recommendations, which are more stringent than the current (soon to be updated) DOH standards. Most important, the CDC now uses a blood lead reference value of five (5) micrograms per deciliter to identify children with higher than most children's blood lead levels. It is recommended that those children receive follow-up venous blood testing within three months.

### **What providers should know**

- Providers will receive monthly reports based on the new recommendations alerting them of the members who have not had a capillary or venous blood test between nine months and 18 months of age, as well as members between 18 and 36 months of age who have not been tested/retested.
- Affinity's clinical quality team will work with providers to address their lead testing rates and to develop action plans for improvement.
- The spring 2019 member newsletter described the dangers of lead and the importance of lead testing. As a follow-up, the fall 2019 edition will encourage members to have their children tested for lead as well as for the other hearing and developmental screenings outlined in the Kids PIP.

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# SPOTLIGHT ON QUALITY

## Statin Therapy Tips

In Affinity's Synergy spring newsletter, our Quality Management department outlined the CDC's position on statin therapy, and provided the HEDIS®/QARR Tip Sheet for the "Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)" quality measure. Below, we've summarized how to improve statin adherence in our Medicaid patients and how providers can participate in that process.

Patients enrolled in Medicaid must refill their statin prescriptions every 30 days, allowing Affinity to track when they are due to refill and when they are at-risk for becoming non-compliant.

## How will Affinity reach out to patients and their providers?

- Affinity is reminding patients who are due to pick up their statin prescription within two weeks via robocalls.
- Patients who miss refilling their prescription (by 1 to 30 days) will receive a letter encouraging them to pick up their statin medication, and reminding them why this medication is important to their health.
- In the fall 2019 member newsletter, Affinity reiterates the importance of general medication adherence and offer tips for improving medication management.
- Members receive report cards, identifying their specific health needs and highlighting areas for focus and improvement. Adherence to statin therapy for cardiovascular health is included in this report card.
- Prescribing providers can check the provider portal at [AffinityPlan.org](http://AffinityPlan.org) for monthly reports on their patients who are on statins, highlighting members who are out of compliance.
- Providers can reach out to their clinical quality contact in Affinity's Quality Management Department ([QM@AffinityPlan.org](mailto:QM@AffinityPlan.org)) for additional assistance in understanding the data and addressing barriers to improvement in adherence.





## Mandatory Public Health Reporting Requirements

To continue improving the health and well-being of the populations we serve, Affinity Health Plan wants to ensure that participating providers comply with public health reporting requirements relating to communicable diseases and conditions mandated in Article 21 of the NYS Public Health Law and in the New York City Health Code (24 RCNY §§ 11.03 - 11.07).

To help providers with compliance, Affinity's Quality Management Department assembled a tool to assist you in understanding the requirements for reportable diseases and conditions under New York State public health law. The Mandatory Public Health Reporting Requirements grid contains information on what must be reported, the ways to report, who must report, and the specific timeframes for when to report. Visit <https://www.affinityplan.org/Providers/Provider-Toolkit/Mandatory-Public-Health-Reporting-Requirements/>

If you have any questions about the New York State Mandatory Public Health Reporting requirements, send your inquiry to our Quality Management Team at [QM@AffinityPlan.org](mailto:QM@AffinityPlan.org).

## Postpartum Care Materials Sent to Members

In an effort to engage our health plan members in postpartum care, Affinity Health Plan has developed a packet that is mailed to recently delivered members.

The member packets are available in English, Spanish and Chinese; each of which contains:

- An educational pamphlet entitled **"YOUR RECOVERY AFTER PREGNANCY"** with a detailed overview of the postpartum period.
- A periodicity schedule per Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics and childhood immunization schedules per New York State Department of Health recommendations.
- In addition, the member packet contains a postpartum visit reward form, which can be redeemed by the member for a \$25 gift card upon completion of her postpartum visit (on or between 21 and 56 days after delivery).

Please visit <https://www.affinityplan.org/Members/Resources/Postpartum-Care/Postpartum-Care/> to view member packets.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Quality Management Team at [QM@AffinityPlan.org](mailto:QM@AffinityPlan.org).



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## Newborn Hearing

The NY Department of Health website has information on early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) for both parents and providers. The main site is [https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants\\_children/early\\_intervention/newborn\\_hearing\\_screening/](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/newborn_hearing_screening/). There are significant resources for providers on how to use the NYEHDI-IS, including a user manual and help-desk contact information.

### What providers should know

- Providers will receive quarterly reports alerting them of patients who are one month of age and have yet to receive a hearing screening.
- The report will also include patients who are three months of age and have not passed a newborn hearing screening nor received a diagnostic audiological evaluation.
- Providers who are working with Affinity's clinical quality team will receive additional assistance for addressing low performing screening barriers.
- The provider toolkit contains information about coding inconsistency and requirements for hearing screening and follow-up, including codes to ensure accurate reporting. Visit <https://www.affinityplan.org/Providers/Providers/>.
- In September 2019, Affinity's Quality Management Department delivered a webinar on submission of supplemental data to Affinity Health Plan. Contact [QM@AffinityPlan.org](mailto:QM@AffinityPlan.org) for a copy of the slides and for information on how to submit data.

## Developmental Screening

Children with CHIP/Medicaid are significantly less likely to receive early intervention for autism. The earlier a child is diagnosed the greater the chances for improvement and the sooner parents receive needed support.

### What providers should know

- Affinity will track timely global developmental screening using the CPT code 96110. The CG modifier "policy applied" will be used to track autism-specific screening.
- When a child has a positive result on an autism screen, the provider can make simultaneous referrals to a developmental physician for further evaluation and to the early intervention program in the child's home county.
- Affinity will create twice-annual reports for providers alerting them of any patients who are one, two, or three years old and have not received a developmental screening. These reports will be available on the provider portal.

