Kindergarten Readiness Health Care Provider Guide

Kindergarten Readiness: A Whole-Child, Cross-Sector Well Being Measure

- **Definition**
  - The condition of children as they enter school, based on the following five domains of development:

Health & physical development | Social & emotional development | Approaches toward learning | Language development & communication | Cognition & general knowledge

  - The capacity of schools to serve all kindergartners effectively

- **Measurement**: Early Learning Inventory, which includes an observation-based formative assessment on the above domains

Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle for Primary Care:

NC InCK Early Childhood Innovation Committee identified interventions that primary care practices can take to promote kindergarten readiness from birth to age 6

Well visit

Office-Based Literacy Promotion

Developmental screening

Social emotional screening

PreK referral

Parenting support programs

Early intervention referral

Early childhood mental health services

Community-based literacy programs

- **Goal**: Encourage and give providers credit for taking these actions
- **How**: Bundle documentation via a new Medicaid administrative CPT code (1003F)

Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle: Interventions in Primary Care

		Birth to 3	3 to 5
Universal	Conduct well visit	✓	✓
	Office-based literacy promotion	✓	✓
	Developmental screening	✓	✓
	Social-emotional screening	✓	✓
	Fluoride varnish	✓	
	Hearing and vision screen		✓
Need-Based			
	Refer to PreK		✓
	Refer to CDSA	✓	
	Refer to Exceptional Children's program		✓
	Provide/refer to parenting support program	✓	✓
	Provide/refer to early childhood mental health program	✓	✓
	Refer to community-based literacy program	✓	✓

CPT Code 1003F can be applied when any 5 or more bundle components (Interventions) are provided

		Birth to 3	3 to 5
Universal	Conduct well visit	✓	✓
	Office-based literacy promotion	✓	✓
	Developmental screening	✓	✓
	Social-emotional screening	✓	✓
	Fluoride varnish	✓	
	Hearing and vision screen		✓
Need-Based			
	Refer to PreK		✓
	Refer to CDSA	✓	
	Refer to Exceptional Children's program		✓
	Provide/refer to parenting support program	✓	✓
	Provide/refer to early childhood mental health program	✓	✓
	Refer to community-based literacy program	✓	✓

Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- Applicable to all well child visits from birth until the 6th birthday

- CPT code 1003F can be applied when <u>any 5 or more bundle components (interventions)</u> are provided

- Add bundle CPT code 1003F to usual CPT and diagnosis codes for well visits

- Reimbursement is <u>not</u> provided for the Bundle code but many individual Bundle components can be coded and reimbursed (see Health Check guide)

Billing Guidance for Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- **Billing Guidance**:
  - CPT 1003F with no Modifier:
    - Bundle **without** *Office-based Literacy Promotion or Referral to PreK*
  - CPT 1003F + Modifier SE:
    - Bundle including **Office-based Literacy Promotion**
  - CPT 1003F + Modifier TS:
    - Bundle including **Referral to PreK**
  - CPT 1003F + Modifiers SE <u>and</u> TS:
    - Bundle including **BOTH Office-based Literacy Promotion & Referral to PreK**

Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle Components

Universal Components of Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- Aligned with EPSDT/Health Check guidelines

- Apply universally to all children from birth until the 6th birthday

- Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle can be delivered by documenting 5 or more of these components at any well visit for children who do not have additional identified needs

Conduct Well Visit

> **More children coming for well visits means more opportunities to deliver and receive credit for the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle**

- Conducting a well child visit at each age indicated by NC Health Check Program Guide/EPSDT Guidelines is a component of the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- Health care providers should document well visits using the applicable CPT and diagnosis codes (for example, diagnosis codes Z00.121/Z00.129 with CPT codes 99391/99392/99393).

- Many practices will benefit from outreach to identify children in need of well visits

Provide Office-Based Literacy Promotion

> ### Reach Out and Read programs can be used for this component

- Consists of:
  - Providing a new book at each well visit
  - Counseling caregivers about benefits of early book sharing
- Practices that want to use alternative approaches to office-based literacy promotion should ensure they include the above criteria

Conduct Developmental Screening to Identify Risk for Developmental Delay

Use a validated and structured developmental screening tool

- Developmental screening is required though the [North Carolina Medicaid Health Check program](#) at the 6-month, 12-month, 18- or 24- months, and ages 3, 4, and 5-year visits

- Practices should document developmental screening as is currently advised in the NC Health Check Program Guide and code using **CPT code 96110** and modifier EP.

Conduct Social-Emotional Screening

Bright Futures recommends a psychosocial/behavioral assessment at every well child visit

Examples include:
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional 2 (ASQ SE-2)
- Baby/Preschool Pediatric Symptom Checklist (included in the Survey of Well-Being of Young Children or SWYC)

Apply **CPT code 96127** with the EP modifier

Apply Fluoride Varnish

Prevent dental caries

- Apply fluoride varnish every 3-6 months from tooth eruption to 3 ½ years.
- Follow all guidance in the NC Medicaid Physician Fluoride Varnish Services Clinical Coverage Policy.
- Apply CDT codes D0145 and D1206

Conduct Hearing and Vision Screening

Objective vision screening annually ages 3 to 6
Objective hearing screening annually ages 4 to 6

- Aligns with NC Medicaid Health Check guidelines
- Apply usual vision screening codes **(99173/99177)**
- Apply usual hearing screening codes **(92551/92552 +EP)**

Need-Based Components of the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- Many children will benefit from programs, connections, and referrals that are based on their specific needs

- Children's health care providers can promote kindergarten readiness by actively connecting children to the following need-based components of the Bundle as applicable

Refer to PreK

> Referral to high-quality PreK can significantly improve kindergarten readiness

- <u>Provide on-site assistance</u> with PreK application completion

- <u>Connect families to an application counselor</u>:
  - Child Care Referral Central 1-855-EARLY-ED or 1-855-327-5933 or https://www.childcareservices.org/families/find-child-care/
  - Durham County, the Durham PreK line: 1-833-773-5338 or https://durhamprek.org/dpk-application/

- Document referral to PreK and **use the TS modifier in combination with the Bundle code 1003F**

Refer to CDSA

Referring children from birth to age 3 puts early intervention services into place that facilitate kindergarten readiness

Refer children to a local CDSA (Children's Developmental Services Agency) if they have:

- Developmental delay
- Specific physical or mental conditions with a high probability of developmental delay
- Document CDSA referral within the medical record

- Consider developing a system that allows referrals to the CDSA to be tracked and followed up

Refer to Exceptional Children's Program

> Referring children who are 3-5 years of age to local school districts can help to put services into place that facilitate kindergarten readiness

- Refer children local school district's Exceptional Children Preschool Programs if they:
  - Have a developmental delay
  - Received services previously through the CDSA
- Consider using the **Physician Notification to Exceptional Children form** located here to refer children
- Consider providing the parent with contact information for the Exceptional Children's program to School District Preschool Coordinators
- Document Exceptional Children's Program referral within the medical record.

Provide/refer to parenting support program

Parenting support programs can improve kindergarten readiness by promoting healthy development and early relational health and supporting caregivers.

- Provide/refer to parenting support programs
  - Can occur in the office, remotely, or within the home or other settings
  - Consider programs with a strong evidence base and include skill practice
- Programs should have:
  - a minimum of 2 planned contacts with caregivers
  - structured training for program leaders
- Include: Triple P, Incredible Years, PriCARE, Parents as Teachers, Healthy Steps, Family Connects
- Document referral in medical record

Provide/refer to early childhood mental health program or service

> Early childhood mental health services can help to support social and emotional components of kindergarten readiness.

- Refer child based on parent concerns, observation, or social-emotional screening
- Refer to therapists with experience with young children and evidence-based therapies (eg., parent-child interaction therapy)
- Providers may contact the North Carolina Psychiatry Access Line to identify therapists: (NC-PAL.) 919-681-2909, https://ncpal.org/
- Includes
  - On-site behavioral health therapist
  - Off-site therapists or other mental health professionals

Provide/refer to community-based literacy program

> Access to books builds literacy skills and contributes to kindergarten readiness

- In addition to in-office literacy promotion through Reach Out and Read community-based literacy programs offer free books and literacy supports

- Examples include:
  - Dolly Parton Imagination Library
  - Book Babies through Book Harvest
  - Raising a Reader Family literacy program (Orange County)

- To meet this component of the Bundle, practices should provide on-site assistance with registering for these free programs.

- This component of the Bundle should be documented in the medical record.

Sample Improvement Steps for Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

- **Electronic health record modifications**.   Bundle can be documented with standardized procedures, such as standard order sets and electronic well child check templates

- **Addition of on-site programs and services.** Practices may want to consider partnering to develop additional developing on-site or virtual programs.

- **Identified staff member to support kindergarten readiness efforts.** Practices may want to consider identifying a specific staff member who can assist with kindergarten readiness-related efforts

Sample Coding for Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle Using EHR Order Set: 4 Year Old, Well Child, PreK Referral

☑ Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle CPT 1003F

☑ SE modifier

☑ TS modifier

☑ Well child visit Z00.121
☐ Dental varnish codes D1405/1206
☑ Developmental screen code 96110
☑ Social emotional screen code 96127
☑ Vision screening 99173/99177
☑ Hearing screening 92551/92552+ EP
☑ Office-based literacy promotion
☑ PreK referral
❑ Parenting program referral
❑ CDSA referral
❑ Exceptional Children's referral
❑ Community literacy program referral
❑ Early childhood mental health referral

Sample Coding for Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle Using EHR Order Set: 3 Year Old, Well Child

☑ Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle CPT 1003F

☑ SE modifier

TS modifier

☑ Well child visit Z00.121

☑ Dental varnish codes D1405/1206

☑ Developmental screen code 96110

☑ Social emotional screen code 96127

☑ Vision screening 99173/99177

☐ q Hearing screening 92551/92552+ EP

☑ Office-based literacy promotion

❑ Parenting program referral

❑ PreK referral

❑ CDSA referral

❑ Exceptional Children's referral

❑ Community literacy program referral

❑ Early childhood mental health referral

Sample Coding for Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle Using EHR Order Set: 3-Year-Old, Developmental Delay and Behavior Problems

☑ Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle CPT 1003F

SE modifier

TS modifier

☑ Well child visit Z00.121

☑ Dental varnish codes D1405/1206

☑ Developmental screen code 96110

☑ Social emotional screen code 96127

☑ Vision screening 99173/99177

- q Hearing screening 92551/92552+ EP
- q Office-based literacy promotion
- q PreK referral
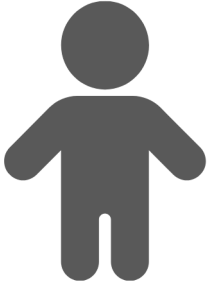
☑ Parenting program referral

☑ CDSA referral

- ☐ Exceptional Children's referral
- ☐ Community literacy program referral
- ☐ Community literacy program referral
- ☐ Early childhood mental health referral

Meeting Matthew's Needs: Applying the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

Michael's doctor's office reaches out to schedule his 3-year-old checkup

Michael's doctor:
- ✓ Completes well visit
- ✓ Gives Reach Out and Read book and counsels about book sharing
- ✓ Notes speech delay on developmental screening tool
- ✓ Notes behavioral concerns on social-emotional screening tool
- ✓ Refers to Exceptional Children's program for developmental delay
- ✓ Refers to parenting program for social-emotional concerns
- ✓ Refers to Child Care Services Association for help with Head Start enrollment
- ✓ Applies dental varnish
- ✓ Notes normal vision screening

Kindergarten Readiness Materials and Engagement Opportunities for Health Care Providers

- AHEC Webinar, April 28th: Join NC InCK and NC Medicaid staff to discuss the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle. Register here.

- Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Talking Points

- Health Care Provider Guide
    - Links to county-specific resources to match each component of Bundle