Promoting Healthy Development Survey (PHDS)

FAST FACTS

Description of the Survey

The Promoting Healthy Development Survey (PHDS) is a parent survey that assesses whether young children (3-48 months old) are receiving nationally recommended preventive and developmental services. The tool has been updated to reflect the most recent edition of the Bright Futures Guidelines. The PHDS can be administered via mail, phone or online. The PHDS-PLUS is an enhanced, telephone version of the survey that includes additional items about the child and parent’s health, health care utilization and other related topics. The ProPHDS is a reduced-item version of the PHDS that can be implemented in office settings where health care is received. Health systems and providers can use the Online PHDS Toolkit to customize the survey administration materials for the Online PHDS, to store and organize automated feedback reports for providers and practices, and to identify quality improvement tips to meet their needs. Parents who complete the survey have access to links to educational resources and receive a customized feedback report that provides guidance on questions to ask at their next well child visit. The Promoting Healthy Development Survey has been endorsed by the National Quality Forum as a valid measure for system, plan and provider-level assessment of patients’ experiences with preventive and developmental health care.

Quality of Care Assessed

Measures of quality care can be gathered and scored using PHDS:
- Anticipatory guidance and parental education by a doctor or other health provider
- Health information
- Developmental Surveillance: Ask about and address parents’ concerns about their child’s learning, development and behavior
- Standardized screening for developmental and behavioral delays
- Follow-up for children at risk for developmental, behavioral or social problems
- Assessment of psychosocial well-being and safety in the family
- Assessment of smoking, drug, and alcohol use in the family
- Family-centered care (experience of care)
- Helpfulness and effect of care provided

Additional information useful for quality improvement

The PHDS, PHDS-PLUS, and In-Office PHDS gather information useful for quality improvement and community assessment, including questions about:
- Child health (risk for developmental, behavioral or social delays, special health care needs, overall health status)
- Parent health (risk for depression, overall health, physical and mental health)
- Parenting behaviors (reading, actions parents take to protect their child from injury)
- Child’s health care utilization (number of regular or routine care visits, ER visits)
- Access issues (problems getting the child necessary care)

How has it been used?

To date, more than 45,000 surveys have been collected by Medicaid agencies, health plans, pediatric practices, and nationally through the National Survey of Early Childhood Health (NSECH). Components of the PHDS are also in the National Survey of Children's Health. Examples include the following:
- Three health plans as part of their quality improvement projects (two in California, one in Ohio)
- The state of Maine, as part of its Medicaid quality improvement effort. The state did analysis at the program (FFS, PCCM), geographic (rural, urban) and practice level.
- The state of Washington, as part of its Medicaid quality improvement efforts. The state did analysis at the health plan, program (FFS, PCCM) and county level.
- Washington, Vermont, North Carolina, Ohio, Louisiana, Minnesota and Mississippi Medicaid have used PHDS-PLUS to collect baseline information about early childhood services.
- The National Survey of Early Childhood Health used components of the PHDS to collect information about young children.
- Five pediatric practices implemented the PHDS for analysis at the medical group, office and provider level.
- Healthy Development Learning Collaborative used the ProPHDS to evaluate improvement efforts.
- The Pediatrics department of Kaiser Permanente-Northwest is implemented the PHDS to collect information at the system-, office- and provider-level.
- Researchers from the Center for Child and Adolescent Health Policy used the PHDS to evaluate quality of care provision by whether the provider spoke the same language and/or had the same race-ethnicity as the child’s family.
- The Early Developmental Screening & Intervention (EDSI) Collaborative is using the PHDS to guide and evaluate improvement efforts.

Who do I contact for more info?

If you would like more information or have questions about the PHDS, email the CAHMI at info@cahmi.org.