

Overview of Screening Tests during Well-Child Checks (WCCs)

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Well-child checks (WCCs) offer an excellent opportunity to detect a variety of diseases and other health-related conditions that impact the growth and development of the child. We use a combination of surveillance techniques and screening tests during WCCs to assess the health of all children as they progress from infancy, through early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence and develop into young adults. For this talk, we specifically focus on screening tests that are routinely used at the point-of-care during WCCs in an outpatient clinic setting.

A variety of screening tests – universal as well as selective – have been specifically developed to identify the presence of various disease states in the child. They help us quickly identify those children who would benefit from additional clinical workup. We provide an overview of each of these screening tests which help us assess the child's health and clinical presentation at different stages of growth and development, as well as how the child's health trajectory compares with that of peers. We discuss the Bright Futures/AAP "Periodicity Schedule," as well as its adaptation by the State of Iowa's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) "Care for Kids" program, the state's federally-mandated Medicaid program for children and adolescents.

Throughout the presentation, we identify challenges commonly encountered with each screening test, and offer practical advice from the field based on established and emerging clinical evidence, as well as hands-on clinical experience with conducting each screening test. We also discuss the support for WCCs that has been built into the UIHC Epic environment, as well as WCC-related patient charting, coding and billing issues.

This presentation has been updated to reflect the latest updates published by Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics effective March 2020.