

To: IPAs, PCPs, BH, Specialists & Urgent Cares
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: August 1, 2023
Subject: **Directed Payment for Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening (ACES) Services**

Assembly Bill (AB) 74, Section 2, Item 4620-101-3305 appropriates Proposition 56 funding to support clinically appropriate trauma screenings for children and adults with full-scope Medi-Cal coverage. Per DHCS APL 19-018, beginning January 1st, 2020 dates of service, contracted (network) providers are eligible to receive a directed payment of \$29 for each qualifying ACEs service. Effective July 1, 2022, the California Budget Act of 2021 has changed the funding source of ACEs services from Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenue to the state General Fund. In accordance with the State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0045, the ACEs program will become a benefit.

Please note that non-contracted providers are not eligible for payment from a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan (MCP).

In order to receive this directed payment, the contracted (network) provider must meet the following criteria:

- 1.) The provider must utilize either the PEARLS tool or a qualifying ACEs questionnaire. The following are the qualified screening tools:
 - use ACEs questionnaire for Adults members (age 18 years and older on date of service)
 - use Pediatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener (PEARLS) for children (ages 0 -19 years of age on date of service)
 - both the ACEs questionnaire and the PEARLS tool can be used for members age 18 or 19 (on date of service)
 - alternative version of ACEs questionnaire can be used for adults, but it must contain questions on the 10 original categories of ACEs to qualify

- 2.) The provider must submit a claim or encounter with one of the qualifying HCPCS codes below based on the screening score from the PEARLS tool or ACEs questionnaire used.

HCPCS Code	Description	Directed Payment	Notes
G9919	Screening performed - results positive and provision of recommendations provided	\$29	Bill with this HCPCS code when the patient's ACE score is 4 or greater (high risk)
G9920	Screening performed - results negative	\$29	Bill with this HCPCS code when the patient's ACE score is between 0-3 (low risk)

- 3.) The provider must maintain documentation in the member's medical record of all of the following: the tool that was used; that the completed screen was reviewed; the results of the screening; the interpretation of the results; what was discussed with the Member and/or family; and any appropriate actions taken. This documentation must be available upon request from IEHP and/or DHCS.
- 4.) Commencing July 1st, 2020 and forward, contracted providers must have taken certified training, self-attested to completing the training, and be on the DHCS' list of providers that have completed the state-sponsored trauma-informed care training in order to continue to receive the directed payment for ACEs screenings.

Please note that the DHCS sponsored provider training is now available at <https://training.acesaware.org/>. IEHP highly encourage providers to complete this required training as early as possible to avoid delays in being included on DHCS' list of providers that have met the training requirement.

Providers may screen Members utilizing a qualifying ACES questionnaire or PEARLS tool as often as deemed appropriate and medically necessary. However, IEHP will only make one directed payment of \$29 per contracted provider per member per year for child screenings (less than 21 years of age on date of service) using the PEARLS tool. IEHP will make one directed payment of \$29 per provider per member per lifetime for an adult screening (between age 21 and less than age 65 on date of service) using a qualified ACEs questionnaire.

Please refer to the "FAQs on Proposition 56" for general program requirements, payment rates, and payment schedule located on the Provider portal at: www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Proposition 56 & GEMT.

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at: www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.