



# Provider Newsflash



A fax bulletin for the Molina Healthcare of Washington Provider Network

## EPSDT Screening Modifier update Medicaid

As of January 1, 2024, the HCA updated the Apple Health ESPDT well-child program billing guide to state that providers are required to include an outcome driven modifier when billing for developmental and behavioral health screening to receive reimbursement.

The HCA acknowledges that providers may need additional time to update their staffing, workflows, and electronic health records (EHRs). For this reason, the HCA will allow an implementation period. The HCA will continue to reimburse for developmental and behavioral health screenings without the new modifier until July 1, 2025.

### Timeline:

- **January 1, 2024:** Updated billing guidance to require a modifier for reimbursement when billing for a developmental and behavioral health screening
- **May 2024:** Send out messaging to MCOs and providers clarifying guidance to allow for an implementation period
- **June 2024 – June 2025:** Implementation period to allow providers to update systems and begin billing with a required modifier
- **July 1, 2025:** All developmental and behavioral health screenings will require a modifier indicating the outcome in order to receive reimbursement

**Resources:** [EPSDT Screening FAQ](#)

**MCO Expectation:** MCOs are expected to cover EPSDT developmental and behavioral health screening without a modifier from January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, plans are expected to cover medically necessary developmental and behavioral health screening only when a modifier is included.

### Which codes are impacted?

- 96110
- 96127
- 96160
- 96161

Modifier	Description
U1	No need is identified (negative screen). Indicates screening score within a normal range.
U2	Need is identified (positive screen) Indicates risk concern, impairment, or identification of a developmental and/or behavioral disorder.