



GUILFORD CHILD HEALTH, INC.

Your child's health is our #1 priority

April 12, 2004

Dear Colleague,

My practice, Guilford Child Health, Inc., has been fortunate to be part of the ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health & Development) project in North Carolina. Several years ago the physicians of the practice had discussed, and were aware, that we needed a better way to do developmental screening and surveillance during well-child care. The use of the Denver was inefficient and time-consuming, so that many children were being missed. We have now been using the ASQ (Ages & Stages Questionnaire) for more than three years, and have been very successful in integrating it into the flow of our schedule. We have done over 12,000 screens, shared an understanding of development with parents, and greatly improved our early identification and referral of infants and children into Early Intervention. Our parents have expressed appreciation for our concerns about their child's development. The physicians and nurse practitioners have described that the use of the tool has provided a template for discussion of development and anticipatory guidance, and has improved their efficiency during the visit as a result. It has also increased everyone's comfort level with discussing development and referring, and has enhanced our communication with community services. Finally, the use of a parent-completed screen has facilitated our efforts to be a medical home, especially for our patients at-risk and who have special needs/chronic conditions. I believe all primary practices will find this valuable and do-able.

Marian Earls, MD

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