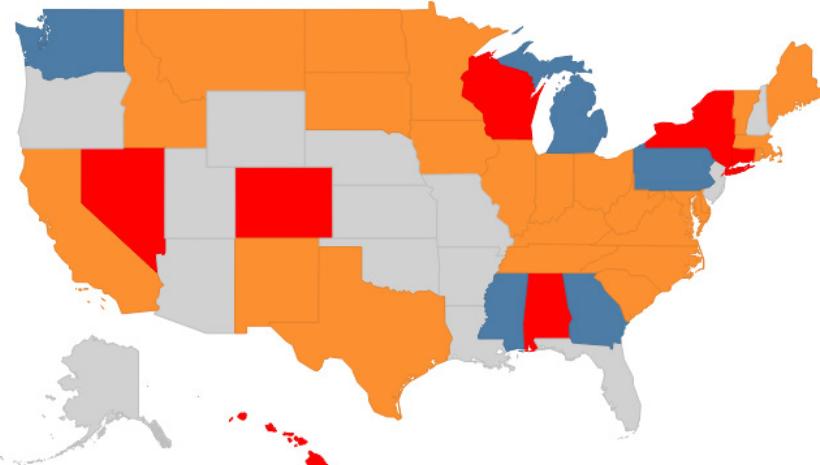




State Medicaid Policies for Identifying Maternal Depression during Well-Child Visits

Medicaid Fee for Service Policies for Maternal Depression Screening in a Well-Child Visit



Legend

- Require (5 states)
- Recommend (25 states)
- Allow (7 states)

Sources: State Medicaid websites and direct communication with state Medicaid officials

37 states have a policy to allow, recommend, or require maternal depression screening as part of a well-child visit

Accurate as of September 2018

Reimbursement and Measurement in States

- Currently, **37 states** recommend, require, or allow maternal depression screening to be provided as part of a well-child visit.
- **Eleven** states distinguish between positive and negative screens in claims data using specific codes or modifiers.
- The most commonly used Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code is **96161** and reported fee-for-service reimbursement rates for this code vary broadly across states, ranging from \$2.18 to \$18.
- In 2018, **three** states (CA, NM, TX) were implementing reimbursement or other guidelines, and **two** (DC and RI) were in the process of updating reimbursement levels or other guidelines.
- At least **four** states (KY, PA, RI, and WI) have Title V or Medicaid performance measures related to maternal or perinatal depression screening.

Quick Facts

Maternal depression is:

- Common;
- Experienced disproportionately by low-income women;
- Often undiagnosed and untreated;
- A risk factor for childhood developmental concerns or delays, such as behavior problems and poor cognitive outcomes;
- Treatable if at-risk mothers are identified through screening and connected with resources.

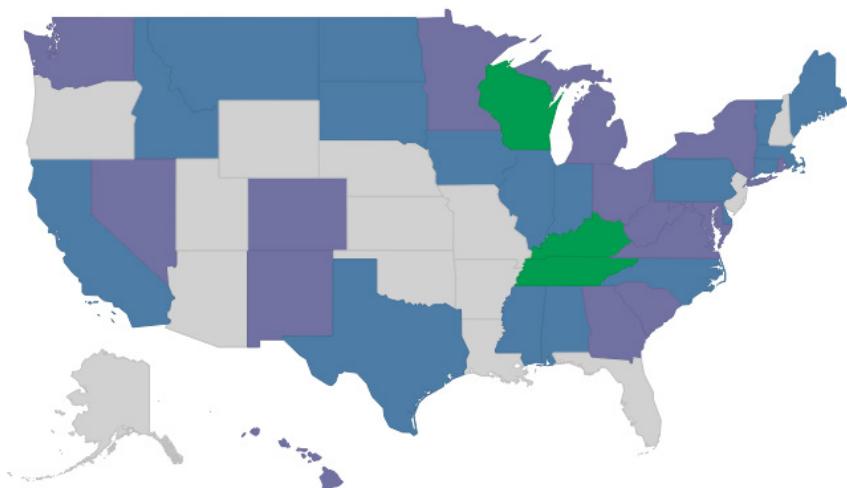
The Role of Medicaid in Screening for Maternal Depression

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid issued [a bulletin](#) in 2016 clarifying that state Medicaid agencies may allow maternal depression screenings to be claimed as a service for a child as part of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' 4th edition of [Bright Futures](#) recommends maternal depression screening during the one-, two-, four- and six-month well-child visits.

States, such as Virginia, have specific Medicaid programs to improve health outcomes for children and mothers through behavioral risk screenings and follow-up services, including case management and enhanced prenatal services. Learn more [here](#).

Medicaid Fee for Service Policies for Maternal Depression Screening in a Well-Child Visit



Legend

- Requires specific tools (18 states)
- Recommends specific tools (16 states)
- Does not require or recommend specific tools (3 states)

Sources: State Medicaid websites and direct communication with state Medicaid officials

34 states have a policy to require or recommend specific screening tools for maternal depression screening as part of a well-child visit

Accurate as of September 2018

Screening Tools in States

- 18 states require providers to use specific or standardized maternal depression screening tools.
- 16 states recommend that providers use specific or standardized maternal depression screening tools.
- 14 states allow a primary caregiver to be screened for depression during a well-child visit.

Common Tools

- 22 states reference the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS).
- 15 states reference a version of the Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ).