

**Response to Questions Posed by
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Will there be a 'sample letter' for physicians to use to notify their patients that they need the Health Checks?

All of the major insurers are notifying their beneficiaries who are in this targeted age group of the need to have a wellness examination completed as a part of kindergarten admittance/entry.

Schools are marketing Kids First to parents within kindergarten enrollment notices. Notices indicate that the HealthCheck documentation, birth certificate and immunization records are needed for kindergarten enrollment. Information about the availability of HealthChecks at the school site is also included.

Physicians are asked to complete a wellness exam using the HealthCheck screening form for children who are in their practices. The clinician would then give the completed wellness form to the family to take with them to kindergarten enrollment at their local school.

Many physicians currently use the one page HealthCheck form for documenting the exam and screens that are part of Periodic Comprehensive Wellness Exams (CPT codes 99392 and 99393). The form is available on NCR (duplicating) paper to more easily provide a copy to the parent while still retaining a copy for the medical record.

Last summer, provider workshops were held and at the workshops there was an announcement that state payers would be adopting the AAP Bright Future guidelines, as well as the expectation that the WV HealthCheck form an equivalent that meets national standards was to be used for child health screening services. A member of the workgroup has shared a copy of presentation materials that were distributed and discussed at the forums, which I have attached for your review.

What is a 'Kindergarten Roundup'?

This informal language often used by local systems as a name for their kindergarten enrollment process. Schools have certain requirements to assure that children have completed immunizations and are screened for vision, hearing, developmental delay, and speech or language deficits. The decision to use the HealthCheck protocol just embellishes the screening that will be completed on each of the children with the goal to ensure that West Virginia kindergartners are healthy and ready to learn.

Will the school nurse or principal or other school official just look at the 'parent's copy of the examination' and say to the student 'enter in'? Is the school required to retain a copy of the exam?

The family needs a copy of the completed exam form which will be retained in the child's school record. Some basic information from the child's screening form will be entered into a database managed by the West Virginia Department of Education in order to assure referrals and follow-up occur where screens show a need for such. The important point here is that the

HealthCheck screening form is on NCR paper so your member network will keep a copy for their medical records and give the parent a copy to take with them to school.

One of my doctors was concerned about the number of patients that do not have a 'medical home' because of the shortage of primary care (46 of 55 counties in WV are MUA) and use the E.R. as their source of primary care. Will the school system accept a note from the parent that says they tried but could not schedule the appointment until after school started?'

The children who present at school for whatever reason and who have not been screened, regardless of insurance status, can be screened at the local school site. The goal is to encourage families to select a medical home, but school screening options are available. We have also developed resource directories to facilitate family/provider linkages. Both school system personnel and health personnel will be encouraging families to select a medical home for their child. Most West Virginia children have health coverage (on any given day, approximately 93%). Some of the children who use the E.R. may do so because they lack a medical home, their insurance does not pay for wellness exams, or the child is not eligible for public coverage (Medicaid or CHIP). For children not having had a wellness exam for whatever reason, we are offering screenings at the school site. Also, this process will afford an opportunity for the families to (re)apply for either CHIP or Medicaid. Local DHHR staff will be on site to assist with CHIP/Medicaid eligibility application. Ultimately, we want all uninsured children entering kindergarten to be evaluated for CHIP or Medicaid coverage. If the child presents at the school and is uninsured, he will be screened using the HealthCheck protocol by a clinician from the community that has been recruited to offer the service at that one day event, called Round-up. The bill for the service provided by the clinician will be paid using funds specifically approved for this prevention initiative by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Details of how the system will work is attached in a schematic which will lead the reader through case scenarios. The schematic will also appear on our website. **All children will have an opportunity to be screened.**

These responses have been reviewed by the workgroup who have responsibility for this initiative across multiple government agencies to assure the correctness of its content.