



Routine Hearing, Vision and Behavior Health Screening Tests

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handout is to help families who owe a balance for a routine hearing, vision or behavioral health screen understand their bill.

OUR POLICY

At routine well exams, Dr. McAllister conducts a hearing, vision and behavioral health screen. These tests are highly recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for the early diagnosis of certain medical problems. Early detection can mean a significant difference in long-term outcomes of our patients.

BILLING

Each screen is billed separately at a routine well exam. For 95 percent of our patients there are no out-of-pocket costs associated with these screens. These particular tests are so common and highly recommended that they are paid for by Mass Health (the state Medicaid program) and almost all of the commercial insurance companies that we work with. In fact, most insurers know that paying for these screens now can mean significant savings in the future as early detection and treatment is much less expensive than treating a more complicated problem in the future.

WHAT IS A NON-COVERED SERVICE

For an unfortunate small minority of our families, these screening tests are considered non-covered services by their insurer. We have investigated these rare cases and have learned that, in an effort to save on monthly premiums, some plans carve out covering these screening tests; lower monthly premiums means more out-of-pocket costs for the patient.

WAIVING SCREENING TESTS

A number of families have asked if they can waive the screening test to avoid the charge. At this time we are not allowing patients to do this. The screening tests are medically important and a part of our standard of care. Patient who wish to remain at Performance Pediatrics may not waive these tests.

Please feel free to share this handout with your employer so that they can address the issue with your insurance plan and perhaps add the screening tests to your plan.