



# 2021 Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care

COMMITTEE ON PRACTICE AND AMBULATORY MEDICINE, BRIGHT FUTURES PERIODICITY SCHEDULE WORKGROUP

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The 2021 Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care (Periodicity Schedule) has been approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and represents a consensus of the AAP and the Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule Workgroup. Each child and family is unique; therefore, these recommendations are designed for the care of children who are receiving competent parenting, have no manifestations of any important health problems, and are growing and developing in a satisfactory fashion. Developmental, psychosocial, and chronic disease issues for children and adolescents may require frequent counseling and treatment visits separate from preventive care visits. Additional visits also may become necessary if circumstances suggest variations from normal.

The AAP continues to emphasize the great importance of continuity of care in comprehensive health supervision and the need to avoid fragmentation of care.<sup>1</sup>

The Periodicity Schedule will not be published in *Pediatrics*. Readers are referred to the AAP website ([www.aap.org/periodicityschedule](http://www.aap.org/periodicityschedule)) for the most recent version of the Periodicity Schedule and the full set of footnotes. This process will ensure that health care professionals have the most current recommendations. The Periodicity Schedule will be reviewed and revised annually to reflect current recommendations.

Following are the changes made to the Periodicity Schedule since it was last published in March 2020.

## DEVELOPMENTAL

- Footnote 11 has been updated to read, “Screening should occur per ‘Promoting Optimal Development: Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders Through Developmental Surveillance and Screening’ (<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/145/1/e20193449>).”

## AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

- Footnote 12 has been updated to read, "Screening should occur per 'Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder' (<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/145/1/e20193447>)."

## HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION

Screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection has been added to occur at least once between the ages of 18 and 79 years (to be consistent with recommendations of the US Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF] and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]).

- Footnote 31 has been added to read, "All individuals should be screened for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection according to the USPSTF (<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/hepatitis-c-screening>) and CDC recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6902a1.htm>) at least once between the ages of 18 and 79. Those at increased risk of HCV infection, including those who are persons with past or current injection drug use, should be tested for HCV infection and reassessed annually."

cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/rr6902a1.htm) at least once between the ages of 18 and 79. Those at increased risk of HCV infection, including those who are persons with past or current injection drug use, should be tested for HCV infection and reassessed annually."

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AAP: American Academy of Pediatrics  
CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
HCV: hepatitis C virus  
USPSTF: US Preventive Services Task Force

## REFERENCES

1. Hagan JF, Shaw JS, Duncan PM. *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*. 4th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2017

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