

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTIVE PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE

## Committee on Practice

Each child and family is unique; therefore, these **Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care** 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 satisfactory fashion. **Additional visits may become necessary** if circumstances suggest variations from normal.

These guidelines represent a consensus of the **Committee on Practice in Ambulatory Medicine** in consultation with the **American Academy of Pediatrics**. The **importance of continuity of care** in comprehensive preventive care should be maintained to avoid **fragmentation of care**.

AGE <sup>4</sup>	INFANCY <sup>3</sup>							EARLY CHILDHOOD			
	NEWBORN <sup>1</sup>	2-4d <sup>2</sup>	By 1mo	2mo	4mo	6mo	9mo	12mo	15mo	18mo	24mo
<b>HISTORY</b>											
Initial/Interval	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>MEASUREMENTS</b>											
Height and Weight	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Head Circumference	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blood Pressure											
<b>SENSORY SCREENING</b>											
Vision	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Hearing <sup>6</sup>	S/O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
<b>DEVELOPMENTAL/ BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT<sup>7</sup></b>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>PHYSICAL EXAMINATION<sup>8</sup></b>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>PROCEDURES – GENERAL<sup>9</sup></b>											
Hereditary/Metabolic Screening <sup>10</sup>	←		•								
Immunization <sup>11</sup>	•	→		•	•	•		←	•	•	•
Lead Screening <sup>12</sup>							•	→			
Hematocrit or Hemoglobin							←				
Urinalysis											
<b>PROCEDURES – PATIENTS AT RISK</b>											
Tuberculin Test <sup>15</sup>								*	*	*	
Cholesterol Screening <sup>16</sup>											
STD Screening <sup>17</sup>											
Pelvic Exam <sup>18</sup>											
<b>ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE<sup>19</sup></b>											
Injury Prevention <sup>20</sup>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>INITIAL DENTAL REFERRAL<sup>21</sup></b>								←			

- Breastfeeding encouraged and instruction and support offered.
- For newborns discharged in less than 48 hours after delivery.
- Developmental, psychosocial, and chronic disease issues for children and adolescents may require frequent counseling and treatment visits separate from preventive care visits.
- If a child comes under care for the first time at any point on the schedule, or if any items are not accomplished at the suggested age, the schedule should be brought up to date at the earliest possible time.
- If the patient is uncooperative, rescreen within six months.
- Some experts recommend objective appraisal of hearing in the newborn period. The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing has identified patients at significant risk for hearing loss. All children meeting these criteria should be objectively screened. See the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing 1994 Position Statement.
- By history and appropriate physical examination: if suspicious, by specific objective developmental testing.

- At each visit, a complete physical examination undressed and suitably draped.
- These may be modified, depending upon local conditions.
- Metabolic screening (eg, thyroid, hemoglobin) according to state law.
- Schedule(s) per the Committee on Infectious Diseases. Every visit should be an opportunity to update immunization status.
- Blood lead screen per AAP statement "Lead in Blood" (1993).
- All menstruating adolescents should be screened for STDs.
- Conduct dipstick urinalysis for leukocytes for all children.
- TB testing per AAP statement "Screening for Tuberculosis" (1993). Testing should be done upon recognition of high risk. If high risk continues, testing should be repeated on an annual basis.

**Key:** • = to be performed      \* = to be performed for patients at risk      S = subjective, by history      O = objective, by a standard testing method

**NB:** Special chemical, immunologic, and endocrine testing is usually carried out upon specific indications. Testing other than newborn (eg, in infancy) should be done upon recognition of high risk. The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, to the extent that they are clinically reasonable, should be considered.

# PREVENTIVE PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE

## Preventive and Ambulatory Medicine

Consensus by the Committee on Practice and with national committees and sections of the Committee emphasizes the great importance of preventive health supervision and the need to

A prenatal visit is recommended for parents who are at high risk, for first-time parents, and for those who request a conference. The prenatal visit should include anticipatory guidance and pertinent medical history. Every infant should have a newborn evaluation after birth.

Age	CHILDHOOD <sup>3</sup>						ADOLESCENCE <sup>3</sup>										
	3y	4y	5y	6y	8y	10y	11y	12y	13y	14y	15y	16y	17y	18y	19y	20y	21y
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
S	O <sup>5</sup>	O	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S
S	O	O	O	S	S	O	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	O	S	S	S
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•																	
•																	
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Immunization is essential, with infant totally unclothed, older child partially clothed. Entry point into schedule and individual need. (Congenital syphilis, phenylketonuria, galactosemia) should be done

Immunizations: Diseases, published periodically in *Pediatrics*. Update and complete a child's immunizations. (Poisoning: From Screening to Primary Prevention"

Screening: Sexually transmitted diseases in male and female adolescents. (Tuberculosis in Infants and Children" (1994). Testing for risk factors. If results are negative but high risk situation, repeat on annual basis.

- Cholesterol screening for high risk patients per AAP "Statement on Cholesterol" (1992). If family history cannot be ascertained and other risk factors are present, screening should be at the discretion of the physician.
- All sexually active patients should be screened for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- All sexually active females should have a pelvic examination. A pelvic examination and routine pap smear should be offered as part of preventive health maintenance between the ages of 18 and 21 years.
- Appropriate discussion and counseling should be an integral part of each visit for care.
- From birth to age 12, refer to AAP's injury prevention program (TIPP<sup>6</sup>) as described in "A Guide to Safety Counseling in Office Practice" (1994).
- Earlier initial dental evaluations may be appropriate for some children. Subsequent examinations as prescribed by dentist.

Method: ← → = the range during which a service may be provided, with the dot indicating the preferred age.

Screening for congenital errors of metabolism, sickle disease, etc.) is discretionary with the physician.

Screening for lead poisoning, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.

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