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Monthly Update: WIC Developmental Monitoring Project



You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you are a part of the ASPHN WIC Developmental Monitoring Project. This newsletter will feature updates from states within the project about what they are doing and successes and challenges they have had, information about upcoming trainings, and other news. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, you can reach out to Amber Brown at AmberBrown@asphn.org. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- *February 24th, 11 am ET: State Updates & Networking Call; Virtual Options*
- *March 24th, 11 am ET: Topic TBA*

*Mark your calendars for our monthly training on the 4th Wednesday at 11 am ET.

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Referrals for Potential Developmental Delay

We have been getting a number of questions recently from states asking where to refer WIC participants for child development. We thought it would be good to add a little information in this newsletter. Where you refer a participant is dependent on the state



you live and what services you have available in that state. The best way to determine this would be to get in contact with your states [Act Early Ambassador](#).

CDC's online implementation manual gives instructions on where to refer participants. Here is a blurb from the [implementation manual](#):

"Most WIC staff participating in the WIC Developmental Milestone Checklist Program will identify children with potential developmental delay. For these children, making an appropriate referral for developmental screening and further assessment is critically important so that the child and family can have the opportunity to benefit from early intervention services.

You will need to identify both how your clinic(s) will make referrals and appropriate referral resources in your state or local area. It may be helpful to consult with [your state's CDC Act Early Ambassador](#), who can advise you on the referral resources in your state.

You may also wish to consult with a person knowledgeable in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy requirements to ensure your referral process, especially in following up with families after a referral, complies with HIPAA standards and regulations. It is not commonly necessary for families to share information about evaluation or diagnostic results from a healthcare provider. At a minimum, it is important to refer the parent to their child's primary health care provider to discuss the checklist and provide developmental screening and further evaluation, if warranted. Use the back of the checklist as the referral form, checking the appropriate boxes on the back and inserting the doctor's name in the "Note to Doctor" section.

Your state, agency, or clinic might have additional recommended tools to support the referral, so it is important to establish your referral protocol before launching your program.

For example, you might also choose to direct the parent to find out if their child might be eligible for services to help:

- If the child is younger than age 3, encourage the family to contact the state's early intervention program to see if their child might be eligible for services
 - Your state, agency, or clinic will need to identify the best approach to making a referral to early intervention.
 - For example, if there is a single point-of-entry/care coordination service available in your state (find out here: <https://healthychild.nashp.org/referral>), share the contact information and complete a referral form.
 - If care coordination is not available in your state, share the contact information for your state's early intervention program, found here: www.cdc.gov/FindEI, or
 - In some states, follow up with other early childhood agencies for screening and further assessment may be the best for the child and family. Consult with [your state's CDC Act Early Ambassador](#) for information about helpful referral sources.

If the child is older than age 3, encourage the family to contact their local school system to see if their child might be eligible for services.

The following links provide additional family-friendly resources that might be helpful to share along with your referral:

- [Concerned about Development? How to Help Your Child](#)
- [Concerned about Development? How to Talk with the Doctor](#)
- [What to say when you call your child's doctor](#)
- Find more information at: www.cdc.gov/Concerned

ASPHN is working with the Advisory Team to develop a Virtual Options Plan along with a plan for evaluating the different options. We will be reaching out to each of the TA states with more details about each of these options and asking for help testing and providing feedback on some of these options. Below are some details about what virtual options we are working on along with dates of when we will begin testing each of them.



- Online Education Modules for WIC Participants
 - WIC-ed.com (*March Launch*)
 - WICSmart (*February Launch*)
 - WIChealth.org (*Launch TBA*)
- Online Checklist
 - More details to come
- Promoting the Milestone Tracker App Virtually (*Feb-Jul 2021*)
 - WIC staff to promote the Tracker App during appointments
 - WIC clinic to set up an email account where WIC participants can email the results of the checklist from the Milestone Tracker App to the WIC clinic.
 - State WIC office will contact local hospitals to inquire about adding an informational flyer about CDC's Milestone Tracker App to the informational packet that goes home with new moms.
- Partnering with the WICShopper App (JPMA) to promote LTSAE (*Testing: March- July 2021*)
 - ASPHN will work with JPMA to develop push notifications, banners, buttons, life hacks, etc. to promote developmental monitoring within the WICShopper app.
- Dissemination and Promotion of Online Materials (*Jan-July 2021*)
 - ASPHN will provide 2-3 social media posts per month that promote developmental monitoring and the app. TA states will share these posts on their social media platforms
- Virtual Child Development 101 Training Course for WIC Staff
 - *Launch: March/April 2021*

ASPHN's Library of Reliable COVID-19 Information

ASPHN has created a library of COVID-19 reliable information related to public health nutrition. Check it out here:

<https://asphn.org/covid-19-resources/>

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