Apple Health Autism Screening & Diagnosis

*This is provided for informational purposes only. This is not intended to be exhaustive and is not medical or legal advice*

Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child be screened for Autism Spectrum Disorder at 18 months and 24 months in addition to frequent Developmental Screening, Developmental Surveillance and Psychosocial/Behavioral Assessment.

If the pediatrician determines, using a screening tool, that the child might have Autism the next step is a Diagnostic Assessment. If the guardian has concerns but the pediatrician screening does not identify the child as needing a diagnostic assessment the guardian can still seek an assessment by self referring to a Center of Excellence.

Autism Diagnostic Assessment

In Washington State children eligible for Apple Health must receive a diagnosis of Autism from a Centers of excellence (COE) to be prescribed certain types of care (including Applied Behavioral Analysis).

A Center of Excellence is a hospital, medical center, or other health care provider (can be a single provider or a facility) that meets or exceeds standards set by the Washington Health Care Authority for speciality care. A COE establishes or confirms the diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder and prescribes a multidisciplinary clinical treatment plan. A prescription for Applied Behavioral Analysis from a Center of Excellence is
required to begin ABA therapy for Medicaid/Apple Health clients. See attached list of Centers of Excellence for referral sources¹.

¹ Washington State Centers of Excellence