

Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan supports the goals of [ACEs Aware](#), a partnership initiative led by the California Surgeon General and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to screen for childhood trauma and treat the impacts of toxic stress. An ACEs screening evaluates children and adults for potentially traumatic events that may have occurred during their first 18 years of life. A child or adolescent who experiences ACEs without the buffering protections of trusted, nurturing caregivers and safe, stable environments can develop toxic stress response, which can impact brain development, hormone and immune systems, and genetic regulatory systems.

Please review the information below to learn more about screening for adverse childhood experiences and how you, as a Blue Shield Promise Medi-Cal Network healthcare provider, can use the available resources to provide this service to your patients.

1. Why is this screening important?

- By screening for ACEs, providers can better determine whether a patient may be at an increased health risk due to a toxic stress response.
- Early detection and early intervention can help prevent or reduce the health risks associated with ACEs.

2. Where can healthcare providers find supporting clinical evidence regarding this screening?

ACEs Aware outlines research on the [Science of ACEs & Toxic Stress](#), including the landmark Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences Study.

3. Where can healthcare providers find tools and resources for conducting the screening?

ACEs Aware offers many resources to support providers in implementing ACEs screenings, including:

- [Screening Tools](#)
- [Provider Toolkit](#) and [Patient/Family Education Handouts](#)
- Ongoing [Educational Events](#)
- [Resources](#) for managing stress
- How to [get certified](#) to screen for ACEs

4. How may Medi-Cal providers be reimbursed for providing this service to Blue Shield Promise Medi-Cal members?

Healthcare providers who attest to taking a free, 2-hour online [ACEs Aware training](#) can bill for ACEs screenings administered (\$29/eligible screen).

Pathways for “high risk” Medi-Cal plan members:

Behavioral health follow-up, referrals, and resources

Agency	Population	Phone Number	Description
Blue Shield Promise	Outpatient mental health services for Mild to Moderate mental health conditions	(855) 765-9701 (LA) (855) 321-2211 (SD)	Blue Shield Promise’s Social Services team can help members navigate mental health resources and options and will reach member by phone.
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Helpline	Serious mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUD)	(800) 854-7771	This free helpline is available 24/7 to provide mental health support, resources, and referrals.
Los Angeles Substance Abuse Service Helpline (SASH)	Serious mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUD)	(844) 804-7500	This free helpline is available 24/7 to provide help in connecting individuals to specialty SUD services.
San Diego Access and Crisis Line	Serious mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUD)	(888) 724-7240	This free helpline is available 24/7 to provide crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and referrals for mental health and/or alcohol and drug abuse treatment.