

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Board of Health

Regulation Relating to Childhood Developmental Screening Data

Approved October 12, 2017

WHEREAS, Section 5-301(b) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter authorizes the Board of Health to issue Department of Public Health regulations for the preservation and promotion of the health of the people of Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, Section 6-202(4) of The Philadelphia Code mandates reporting to the Department of Public Health such information and reports as may be required by regulations adopted by the Board of Health to ensure the proper control of communicable diseases or to aid in the formulation and review of municipal programs for the promotion of the health of the public;

WHEREAS, the early childhood period is crucial to lifelong health;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health has determined that the health information available on early childhood development in Philadelphia is inadequate to meet current and future public health program needs;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health has identified the need to collect information about early childhood development, including developmental milestones, to conduct public health surveillance and other public health programs with the purpose of preventing developmental delays and disorders in Philadelphia, as further described in this regulation;

WHEREAS, some pediatric outpatient providers currently collect and maintain data on childhood development using routine screening methods;

WHEREAS, mandating reporting only from providers who routinely collect and maintain childhood developmental screening data in a standard electronic format imposes only a minimal administrative burden on providers; and

WHEREAS, childhood health problem data not subject to mandatory reporting will facilitate early childhood public health surveillance and other public health programs conducted by the Department of Public Health;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health hereby adopts this Regulation Relating to Childhood Developmental Screening Data, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions

Childhood Developmental Screening Data. Health information relating to the childhood development of Philadelphia residents less than five (5) years of age, including developmental milestones, behavioral and emotional development, and family risk factors, that is: (a) collected using the Survey of Well-Being of Young Children instrument (“SWYC”) or a similar standardized screening method, and (b) maintained in a standard electronic format.

Childhood Health Problem Data. Health information relating to health problems of Philadelphia residents less than five (5) years of age that is: (a) identified by the Department for use in public health surveillance or other public health programs with the purpose of preventing developmental delays and disorders, chronic and infectious disease, injury, or disability in Philadelphia; and (b) maintained in a standard electronic format.

Department. The Department of Public Health.

Pediatric Outpatient Provider. A person or entity providing outpatient medical care to children less than five (5) years of age.

Section 2. Mandatory Reporting of Childhood Developmental Screening Data

Upon written request of the Department, Pediatric Outpatient Providers who routinely collect and maintain Childhood Developmental Screening Data shall provide to the Department in a standard electronic format: (a) those data elements from the SWYC or similar screening tool that are specified by the Department in its request; (b) the name, date of birth, address of residence, gender at birth, race, and health insurance type of each patient to whom the data relates; and (c) the dates of screening, and weight and height of each patient as of those screening dates.

Section 3. Voluntary Reporting of Childhood Health Problem Data

In addition to the mandatory reporting described in Section 2, the Department is hereby authorized to collect Childhood Health Problem Data for the purpose described in this Section 3 from Pediatric Outpatient Providers electing to provide such data. The Department may request Childhood Health Problem Data from Pediatric Outpatient Providers in writing, describing: (a) the public health surveillance or other public health program for which the Childhood Health Problem Data will be used, (b) the specific data elements requested, and (c) the form or format in which to provide the data. The Department is authorized to use the Childhood Health Problem Data to conduct public health surveillance and other public health

programs with the purpose of preventing developmental delays and disorders, chronic and infectious disease, injury, or disability in Philadelphia. For example, the Department may collect automated patient-specific health problem lists to improve resource allocation for interventional programs designed to prevent developmental delays.

Section 4. Confidentiality

The Department shall maintain the confidentiality of all data collected pursuant to this Regulation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in a manner consistent with the confidentiality standards applicable to the Department's maintenance of case records as set forth at 28 Pa. Code § 27.5a.