

Department of Health

Factsheet: Developing a public health outcome measure for children aged 2 – 2½ using ASQ-3™

1. A public health outcome measure for children at age 2 – 2½

The Department of Health is developing an outcome measure of child development at age 2 – 2½ years, the data for which will be published in the Public Health Outcomes Framework from 2015.

2. Why an outcome measure of child development at age 2 – 2½?

The measure will help monitor child development across England so that we can observe changes in population health from year to year, and potentially also use the data to track children's outcomes as they grow up. The data will also help to assess the effectiveness and impact of services for 0-2 year olds and support future planning.

In addition to providing national and local population level data, the assessment tool used for the measure, Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition, (ASQ-3™): A Parent-Completed Child Monitoring System, Squires & Bricker (Brookes Publishing Co.), will help health visitors identify any early problems in individual children's development leading to effective early intervention, help to support children to be ready for school and learning, and feed into the child's two year review.

3. Will the data for the measure be collected as part of a routine assessment?

Data for the measure will be collected during the Healthy Child Programme two year review or integrated review, where in place (see Q10).

4. Which tool will be used to generate data?

Data will be collected using the evidence-based ASQ-3. ASQ-3 questionnaires are completed by parents and cover five domains of child development: communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving and personal-social development. Health visiting teams will need to be using ASQ-3 as part of HCP two year reviews from 2015, as set out in the NHS England health visiting service specification <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/hlth-vistg-prog/res/#serv-spec>. Further information on using ASQ-3 is available through an e-learning package (see Q8).

5. Why was ASQ-3 chosen?

ASQ-3 was one of two assessment tools identified through research as suitable for use as part of Healthy Child Programme two year reviews and to generate data for a population measure of child development at age 2-2½. The research, which reviewed a range of measures of child development, can be found on the UCL website:

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpru/documents/review_of_measures_of_child_development.

Further research, exploring the acceptability and understanding of ASQ-3 among parents and health professionals, is also available:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpru/documents/evaluating-the-use-of-a-population-measure-of-child-development-in-the-healthy-child-two-year-review>

6. What is the timing for collecting data for the outcome measure?

From April 2015: services will be asked to collect data on the number of eligible children receiving two year reviews which include ASQ-3, as part of the NHS England health visiting service delivery metrics. This is set out in the NHS England 2015-16 National Health Visiting Core Service Specification. After September 2015, responsibility for commissioning for 0-5s will move from NHS England to local authorities, and data

collection will continue to be required, as this is a statutory commitment in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Information about the transfer of commissioning is available at the following factsheet:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347047/Mandation_factsheet_final_22-8-14.pdf

From September 2015: it is expected that data will be collected via the Children and Young People's Health Services (CYPHS) dataset (see <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren/CYPHS>). The first submissions will take place in October 2015 for September data.

Providers and Area Teams should therefore be making plans to ensure that the mechanisms for data collection of the indicator from September 2015 are in place. This data will **not** be required to be backdated to 1 April 2015.

It is expected that the data items required will include:

- child's date of birth
- child's gestational age at birth
- child's gender
- child's ethnicity
- date of birth of mother
- postcode
- date of completion of the ASQ-3 questionnaire by parent or professional
- whether the ASQ-3 questionnaire was completed as part of a HCP two year review/integrated review
- which ASQ-3 questionnaire was used (24/27/30 month)
- ASQ-3 domain scores (Communication/Gross Motor/Fine Motor/Problem Solving/Personal-Social)

As part of the development process for the CYPHS dataset, system suppliers will be required by the CYPHS data set Information Standards Notice to make changes to their systems to enable health visiting teams to record ASQ scores.

Where organisations experience delayed compliance with the CYPHS dataset then it is expected that the above data will be collected locally in order to support an ad-hoc national reporting process on an interim basis.

Specific guidance and detailed data specifications to support this data collection and reporting will be issued separately as part of the transfer of commissioning responsibilities to local authorities. Please see the guidance on commissioning data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/0-to-5-public-health-services-transfer-of-commissioning>.

7. How will health visiting teams access ASQ-3?

ASQ-3 has been adapted from US English to British English in cooperation with the publisher. DH has funded one CD-ROM per health visiting provider, distributed to providers in March 2015. Materials can be copied for health visitors as required under the terms of the accompanying Sub-Licence Agreement for Providers. The CD-ROM includes a full set of the 21 ASQ-3 questionnaires and summary sheets, the ASQ-3™ Quick Start Guide, the Child Monitoring Sheet, the Parent Review Sheet and the 'What is ASQ-3' sheet intended for parents. Health visiting teams will need to make sure they use the correct ASQ-3 questionnaire for each child, depending on the child's age at the time of

their two year review. ASQ-3 questionnaires are available for children in age ranges around 24, 27 and 30 months.

The CD-ROM does **not** include Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) and these are not required for the outcome measure at this stage. ASQ:SE will be added at a later date and more information about this will be provided in due course.

8. What training is available for health visiting teams?

E-learning materials have been developed to support health professionals using ASQ-3 as part of the two year review. These are quick and easy to complete and accessible to all practitioners working with young children via the *e-Learning for Healthcare* website: <http://goo.gl/6J7VEd>. The e-learning comprises two 30 minute sessions and is an interactive tool that includes video clips from real-life two year reviews and covers the practicalities of using ASQ-3.

9. What equipment might be needed to help parents complete the questionnaire?

Part 1 of the e-learning (Q8) contains detailed information about the equipment needed to carry out a review using ASQ-3™. A basic kit for the 2 year review (using the 24m, 27m and 30m questionnaires) might consist of:

- Book with pictures
- Ball
- Clear plastic bottle with lid
- Raisins
- Blocks for stacking
- Large beads/pasta wheels and lace for threading
- Paper and crayons/pencils
- Plastic cup with handle
- Spoon and fork
- Metal mirror with safe edges/wall mirror
- Baby doll

There is also an official 'ASQ-3™ Materials Kit' available to purchase directly at <http://goo.gl/vaRPK2>

10. Will Family Nurses need to report ASQ data?

Data need to be collected for all children aged 2 – 2 ½, so where Family Nurses are undertaking two year reviews they should report data as per Q6 above. The FNP programme now includes the use of ASQ-3 at 24 months with capacity for recording this data on the FNP Information System.

As Family Nurse Partnership teams already use the ASQ-3 tool, they are not currently included in the licensing agreement for the British English version of ASQ-3 so will not receive a CD-ROM. The British English version of ASQ-3 differs only slightly from the US English version which FNP teams currently use. After the initial data collection has been analysed we will work with the FNP National Unit to consider whether the British English version of ASQ-3 should be used in FNP.

11. How does this fit with the development of an integrated review?

From September 2015, services are asked to offer integrated reviews at age 2, bringing together the EYFS progress check and the HCP health review. Data for the outcome measure will be collected during the Healthy Child Programme two year review, which is the health element of an integrated review.

12. Should ASQ-3 be used as part of two year reviews for children with an already identified disability/developmental delay?

ASQ-3 should be offered to all children as part of their two year review and is a helpful tool for identifying children with additional needs. However, where a child already has an identified disability or developmental delay, health visiting teams will need to agree with parents whether they wish to complete the ASQ-3 questionnaire as part of their child's two year review. Much rests on health visitors' professional judgement and their skill in working sensitively and collaboratively with families to agree the best approach. Local systems should support health visitors to work in partnership with parents to reach a decision about whether to use ASQ-3.

Where the parent wishes to use the ASQ-3 questionnaire, you should use the appropriate age questionnaire (24, 27 or 30 month) and not an earlier age interval.

Where the parent opts not to use ASQ-3, health visiting teams may wish to use an alternative tool, such as the Schedule of Growing Skills, to help assess a child's development as part of their two year review. It is up to local areas to choose the most appropriate tool, but we would expect this to be an evidence-based, standardised tool, as set out in the Healthy Child Programme two year review guidance document.

13. How should data be collected for children with an already identified disability/developmental delay?

Where an ASQ-3 questionnaire is used, scores should be recorded as usual. The Children and Young People's Health Services data set (Q6) has the capacity to record Special Educational Needs and identified disabilities and your local CHIS system should enable you to record this at the same time as the ASQ-3 scores.

Where an ASQ-3 questionnaire is not used, you should record a nil return and information about the child's Special Educational Needs or identified disability.

14. Is ASQ-3 available in other languages?

The US English version of ASQ-3 is available in Spanish and in French. Translations of the US English version into other languages may be available, but no translations of the British English version are available or underway. Enquiries should be made via rights@brookespublishing.com

15. Is parents' consent needed to collect and report their child's ASQ-3 scores?

Specific consent for ASQ scores to be collected and reported in the CYPHS data set is not needed. However, it is good practice for health visiting teams to inform parents what will happen to their child's ASQ scores, including how they will be used to build a picture of children's development across the country and to help improve services.

16. Can I build a template to record ASQ-3 answers and/or scores on my IT system (including electronic medical/health/patient records)?

Yes, you can create a template to record ASQ-3 answers and/or scores as long as this does not reproduce the ASQ questionnaire or any portion thereof. Templates may not reproduce the wording of questions or the illustrations, or use shortened versions of the questions. You may identify the questionnaire used, as well as record the question number and the caregiver's answer without recreating the questionnaire itself (for example: ASQ-3 16-month, Fine Motor #1, sometimes). A child's completed ASQ-3 questionnaire may be scanned for the purpose of filing it in the child's electronic file.

17. Further queries

Any further queries can be addressed to childrenfamiliesmaternity@dh.gsi.gov.uk

18. Useful resources

The Healthy Child Programme Two Year Review:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377800/dh_108329.pdf

Early Years High Impact Areas – Area 6 – Two Year Review:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/326895/Early_Years_Impact_6.pdf

Further information on ASQ-3

www.agesandstages.com