

# ARE YOU UTILIZING ACES AWARE TOOLS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF YOUR PATIENTS?

Receive \$29 per visit reimbursement for each Medi-Cal office visit



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The impacts of ACEs and toxic stress are treatable. We can screen for ACEs, respond with evidence-based trauma-informed care, and significantly improve the health and well-being of individuals and families.

– Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress are a public health crisis. As physician providers, we can take action to change and save lives.

You are probably familiar with the ACEs Aware initiative, led by the Office of the California Surgeon General, Nadine Burke-Harris, M.D., and the Department of Health Care Services to give Medi-Cal providers training, clinical protocols, and payment for screening children and adults for ACEs.



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include abuse, neglect, and/or household dysfunction that occurs by age 18. The abuse can be physical, emotional, or sexual; and neglect can be physical or emotional. Household dysfunction can be parental incarceration, mental illness, substance use, parental separation or divorce, or intimate partner violence. The way children respond to these stressors is known as the toxic stress response and has a direct correlation upon metabolic, immune and neuroendocrine responses.

Did you know that people with four or more ACEs are:

37.5x

as likely to attempt suicide

11.2x

as likely to have Alzheimer's or dementia

3.1x

2-2.3x

as likely to have  
chronic lower  
respiratory disease

as likely to have a  
stroke, cancer, or  
heart disease

1.4x

as likely to have diabetes

The mission of ACEs Aware is more important than ever given the toxic stress being caused by the COVID-19 emergency, including disruptions in access to care and repeated or prolonged activation of people's stress response without the buffering protections of a caregiver and/or a safe environment.

Detecting ACEs early and connecting patients to interventions, resources, and other support can improve the health and well-being of individuals and families.

Immediate steps YOU can take to implement ACEs Aware protocols and screening with your own patients include:

1. Getting trained through a simple, two-hour self-attestation process online at <https://training.acesaware.org>.
2. Screen patients (children and families) for ACEs, assess risk for toxic stress, respond with evidence-based interventions and implement trauma informed care and referrals to social workers and other professionals for follow up. Learn more here: <https://www.acesaware.org/screen/screening-for-adverse-childhood-experiences/> and <https://www.acesaware.org/treat/clinical-assessment-treatment-planning>.
3. Receive Medi-Cal payment of \$29 per patient office visit at <https://www.acesaware.org/screen/certification-payment>.
4. Help advance the health care system. Learn more here: <https://www.acesaware.org/heal/educational-events>.

To view the ACEs Aware provider tool kit, click here. [<https://www.acesaware.org/heal/provider-toolkit>]

To view complete ACEs Aware information, click here. [<https://www.acesaware.org/>]

For more information, ways to get involved, or questions, please contact Alison Elsner at San Bernardino County Medical Society at [aelsner@sbcms.org](mailto:aelsner@sbcms.org).