

ASQ-3 Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · August 2026 · Reproduces no items, cutoffs, or forms

The ASQ-3 is a parent-completed developmental screen (ages 1 to 66 months, 21 intervals, five domains of six items) scored against interval-specific cutoffs. Each domain lands above cutoff, in the monitoring zone (an action-obligating middle category), or below cutoff (a positive screen, not a diagnosis); the untotaled Overall section can override a clean profile; and corrected age selects the interval for preterm children under 24 months. Defensible charting shows the arithmetic, the zones, the plan, and the referral clocks.

Interval + corrected age the arithmetic picks the form

Do: chart exact age in months and days; for children born 3+ weeks early and under 24 months, corrected age selects the interval; show both ages.

Pitfall: nearest-month picking, or no correction: the commonest way a true pass turns falsely positive.

Respondent, language, completeness who, in what, all answered?

Do: record respondent and relationship, form language, interpreter or interview help, and per-domain scorability (1-2 blanks = adjusted; >2 = not scorable).

Pitfall: an unscorable domain scored, or an adjusted score presented as ordinary.

Domain results by zone five zones, no global total

Do: state each domain as above cutoff / monitoring zone / below cutoff against its own interval boundary.

Pitfall: "ASQ score 45" or "passed": sums without their interval mean nothing.

The monitoring-zone plan neither pass nor referral

Do: document context review, parent discussion, targeted activities provided, a dated rescreen, and escalation criteria (concern, repetition, clustering, regression).

Pitfall: "passed; watch fine motor": no intervention, no date, no auditable commitment.

Overall section in words the untotaled veto

Do: record hearing, vision, talking, behavior, and lost-skills answers in words; act on them regardless of domain zones; regression is a red flag.

Pitfall: "passed all domains" over a live parent concern the section exists to catch.

Referrals and the clocks 7 days to refer; 45 to evaluate

Do: for below-cutoff results: early intervention referral (dated), audiology for communication concerns, medical evaluation; name the confirmation owner.

Pitfall: a positive screen that ends at the score, or a screen charted as Part C eligibility.

Interpretation boundary screen, not diagnosis

Do: chart positive screens as referral triggers and negative screens as not ruling out milder delay; document declined screens as offered and declined, not completed.

Pitfall: "developmental delay" entered as a finding from a screening instrument.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ Interval justified: both ages charted, correction applied
- ☐ Respondent, language, and per-domain scorability recorded
- ☐ All five domains stated by zone, no global total
- ☐ Monitoring-zone plan dated, with escalation criteria
- ☐ Overall section reviewed in words and acted on
- ☐ Referral clocks met and owners named
- ☐ Screen-not-diagnosis language throughout

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: interval, both ages and gestational basis, respondent and language, domain zones, Overall answers, monitoring plan, referrals.

"Draft ASQ-3 documentation: 6-month interval by corrected age (chrono 9 months 4 days, born 9 weeks early), Spanish, mother respondent, gross motor monitoring zone, others above cutoff, no Overall concerns, floor-time activities given, rescreen booked at nine weeks."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

5 domains, 3 zones

per-interval cutoffs; no global total

Monitoring zone = plan

activities + dated rescreen, or refer

Corrected age picks the form

3+ weeks early, until 24 months

Screen, not diagnosis

7-day referral, 45-day evaluation clocks

ASQ-3 Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no questionnaire content.

Setting: _____ Patient (initials): _____ Date: _____ Clinician: _____

Interval + chronological + corrected age: _____ Respondent + language: _____

Domain results by zone

Communication · gross motor · fine motor · problem solving · personal-social · each: above cutoff / monitoring zone / below cutoff

Completeness and adjustments

Blank items per domain · adjusted scores identified · domains not scorable (>2 blank) charted as such

Overall section (in words)

Hearing · vision · talking · behavior · loss of skills · parent worries · acts regardless of domain zones

Monitoring-zone plan

Domain(s) · context review · parent discussion · targeted activities provided · rescreen DATE · escalation criteria

Referrals and clocks

Early intervention (dated; 7-day clock) · audiology for communication concerns · medical evaluation · confirmation owner

Interpretation

Positive screen = referral trigger, not diagnosis · negative screen does not rule out milder delay · preterm framing if applicable

Follow-up and administrative

Next screening age or rescreen date · summary sheet scanned · results in EHR fields · declined screens documented as declined

Clinician (name and credentials): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____