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## California Pays Doctors to Dig Deep into Children's Lives

California has begun paying doctors \$29 per child to ask intrusive questions about family relationships, housing, abuse, food and more.

This is the new adverse childhood experiences screening program. It's targeted at children on Medicaid, but expect it to reach into every family. Parents and older children will be asked to complete a questionnaire. While they don't have to participate, they may feel pressured to do so.

Children will be given an "adverse childhood experiences" score. This data on families will be available to anyone with access to the child's medical record without consent, as permitted by HIPAA's no privacy rule. One sociologist says it could have disastrous consequences. Say no to California's nosy questionnaire.

"5 Things to Know As California Starts Screening Children for Toxic Stress," Kaiser Health News, January 8, 2020: https://bit.ly/375t8xg

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