

GDD/ID is often broader, and more common than you may expect

Global developmental delay (GDD) or intellectual disability (ID) can be early signs of an underlying genetic condition.



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends exome (+CMA) as first-line tests for children with GDD or ID¹

Global developmental delay is defined as the failure to meet expected developmental milestones across two or more developmental domains²

Intellectual disability is defined as significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, with onset during the developmental period. Usually diagnosed after the age of 5 when developmental delays persist²

How GDD/ID may present in practice

- Multiple developmental concerns or missed milestones
- Therapy referrals such as **EI, speech, OT, PT, ABA, or other developmental therapies**
- Repeated flags on developmental screening tools such as **M-CHAT- R/F, ASQ-3, and/or SWYC**

When missed milestones span 2+ developmental domains, **consider first-line exome (+CMA)**

Social/ Emotional



- ☐ Social smiling (2 months)
- ☐ Parallel play (2 years)
- ☐ Plays and shares with others (3 years)

Motor (fine and gross)



- ☐ Sits unsupported (9 months)
- ☐ 2-finger pincer grasp (12 months)
- ☐ First steps (12 months)

Speech/ Language



- ☐ Babbles (6 months)
- ☐ Uses 6-10 words, other than names (18 months)
- ☐ 3-word sentences (3 years)
- ☐ Tells a short story (5 years)

Cognitive



- ☐ Looks for hidden objects (12 months)
- ☐ Simple puzzles (2-3 years)
- ☐ Asks "why" questions (3-4 years)

Adaptive (self-help)



- ☐ Can scoop with spoon to eat (18 months)
- ☐ Helps with tasks, like getting dressed (2-3 years)
- ☐ Potty training (3-4 years)

You may already have GDD/ID patients in your care: common ICD-10 codes and chart indicators to look for.



ICD-10 codes across 2 or more developmental domains, milestone history, and repeated developmental concerns in clinic notes can help identify patients with GDD or ID who may benefit from exome (+CMA).

	Social/ Emotional	Motor (fine and gross)	Speech/ Language	Cognitive	Adaptive (self-help)
Clinical documentation may include	• Social communication delay • Autistic features with developmental delay • Delayed engagement/interaction	• Gross/fine motor delay • Delayed walking or motor milestones • Poor coordination or hypotonia	• Speech delay • Language delay • Expressive/receptive language delay	• Cognitive delay • Learning or problem-solving delay • Broader developmental delay	• Limited age-expected independence • Feeding delay • Dressing, toileting, or other self-help delay
ICD-10 codes	F80.82 Social pragmatic communication disorder F84.0 Autistic disorder <i>*when accompanied by other developmental delays</i>	F82 Specific developmental disorder of motor function M62.89 Other specified disorders of muscle	F80.1-F80.2 Expressive language disorder or mixed receptive-expressive language disorder F80.9 Developmental disorder of speech and language, unspecified	F70-F73 Intellectual disabilities, mild to profound F78 Other intellectual disabilities F79 Unspecified intellectual disabilities	R63.30 Feeding difficulties, unspecified
Broader GDD/ID and NDD codes	R62.0 Delayed milestone in childhood R62.50 Unspecified lack of expected normal physiological development in childhood F88 Other disorders of psychological development F89 Unspecified disorder of psychological development				



Pediatricians’ trusted partner in making genetic answers the standard of care for children with GDD or ID.

Learn more about exome for GDD/ID 



References

1. Rodan LH, Stoler J, Chen E, et al. Genetic Evaluation of the Child With Intellectual Disability or Global Developmental Delay: Clinical Report. Pediatrics. 2025 Jun 23:e2025072219. doi: 10.1542/peds.2025-072219.

2. American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, fifth edition, text revision. Washington: American Psychiatric Association, 2022.

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