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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2007

TO: Wilma Jackson, MPA
Policy Consultant, Early Steps
Children's Medical Services, Department of Health

FROM: Samantha Delloso, MSW
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Bureau of Medicaid Services, Agency for Health Care Administration

SUBJECT: Medicaid Early Intervention (EI) Services Guidelines

This memo is intended to address concerns from Medicaid Early Intervention providers regarding policy issues outlined in the new Medicaid Early Intervention Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook (August 2007).

With regard to Infant Toddler Development Specialists (ITDSs), a licensed Early Intervention professional acting within his scope of practice must direct and support the activities of the ITDS. "Direction and support" is not intended to be synonymous with supervision. The licensed healing arts professional who provides direction and support is responsible for guiding the activities of the ITDS. This must include at least one face-to-face meeting between the ITDS and the licensed healing arts professional every six months, which can occur either through participation at Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) team meetings or through joint visits with the child and family. The licensed healing arts professional is in no way responsible for the actions of the ITDS. Supervision of the ITDS is the responsibility of the employing or contracting agency.

Therapists should not have to complete a new evaluation under the Therapy Services program if they have participated in an EI evaluation. Therapists who are a part of the evaluation team through EI should utilize the methodology for evaluation outlined in the Florida Medicaid Therapy Services Handbook. For this reason, therapists providing services to EI participants, whether they were on the initial EI evaluation team or not, can base their therapy plans of care and subsequent treatments on the EI evaluation. Follow-up Early Intervention evaluations may be done on children who were not found eligible for services during an initial evaluation or for children who are receiving EI services when additional developmental concerns arise. These are limited to three per year, per recipient. Re-evaluations under the therapy services program can be done to monitor the child's progress in meeting treatment goals once every six months.

Finally, there is a distinction between Early Intervention sessions performed by a licensed therapist and sessions billable under the Medicaid Therapy Services program. Early Intervention sessions are designed to provide family or caregiver training and counseling to promote development of the child. They are intended to educate the parents or other caregivers



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on how to best encourage healthy growth in the identified child. Parents or caregivers are expected to participate in the sessions with the child and the Early Intervention professional in order to learn these skills. Traditional therapy services are centered on the child and are more clinical in nature. While there may be a parental education component to such services, the main interaction is generally between the therapist and the child.