

ESSO WEEKLY MEMO

October 3, 2014

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GENERAL UPDATES:

1. Reminder: Provider Cleanup

The Early Steps State Office is working with the CMS Provider Management Unit to develop a provider renewal process. Prior to implementing this process, we need to update our system. We have an extensive number of providers that are in "Temporary" status, and we need your assistance to update them to "Active." Providers are placed in temporary status when they have not completed the Early Steps Orientation Modules. Patricia Herring sent each LES a spreadsheet that included a list of providers in your region who are in temporary status. This is a reminder to please review this list asap and identify (highlight) providers that are actively serving children. Please notify the providers of which modules need completing. **They will have one week to complete the required modules or will be terminated from the Provider Management system.** This information is due back as soon as possible but no later than October 8, 2014.

2. Policy Updates

The updated Policies and Guidance effective October 1, 2014 have been posted on the CMS website and the outdated policies have been removed. The website address is: http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html

3. CMS K.I.D.S. Expanded Hours

We are happy to report that MED3000 has agreed to extend the hours of operation for CMS K.I.D.S. access to 7:00 am - 9:00 pm eastern time 7 days a week with the exception of Maintenance and Upgrades on the weekend for which you will be notified when that happens. Please note, MED3000 will NOT have support staff for the help desk available to handle issues (passwords reset, etc...) during the expanded hours (outside of 7 am – 7 pm M-F).

4. Letter to Providers Extending Continuity of Care Period

CMSN MMA Specialty Plan has extended the Continuity of Care period from 60 to 120 days. The extension was due to a delay in approval of the provider contract template for Title XIX services. The contract has been approved and both Ped-I-Care and South Florida Community Care Network (SFCCN) will be reaching out to providers to sign contracts. Early Steps providers should be proactive in contacting Ped-I-Care or SFCCN to sign contracts. This is an opportune time to reach out to get a signed contract as both ICS must show network adequacy. Please note the attached letter to providers regarding the extension of the Continuity of Care period.

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GENERAL UPDATES, CONTINUED:

5. CMS K.I.D.S. Tip of the Week

Most evaluation services covered by the Early Steps Taxonomy are reimbursed as evaluation events, not in minutes. Service Coordinators should record the Intensity on Form G of the IFSP as 1, and service providers should record a unit of 1 on claims submitted for these evaluations:

- Assistive Technology Evaluations/97755,
- Occupational Therapy Evaluations/97003 & 97004,
- Physical Therapy Evaluations/97001 & 97002,
- Speech Evaluations/92521, 92522, 92523, & 92524.

(This is not an exhaustive list, but are frequently used. Consult the Early Steps Taxonomy table for other codes.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

6. 4th Annual Children's Mental Health Conference

Registration is now open for the 4th Annual Children's Mental Health Conference, which will be held on **Saturday, November 1, 2014**, at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Please see the attached flyer for registration and conference information. For additional information or questions, please call 239-425-3273 and refer to the conference.

7. 22nd Annual Statewide Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Conference

The seven regional CARD centers and the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism will be hosting their conference at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando on **January 16–18, 2015**, with featured experts Paula Kluth, Cathy Pratt, Michael Alessandri, Sara Smith, Dana Gassner, Carole Zangari and many other nationally recognized presenters on various topics across the autism spectrum. Registration for the free educator training day is open now, and conference registration at the low Early Bird rate is now available. More information on this informative and valuable opportunity may be found at

http://www.pals-ucfcard.org/2015_CARD_Conference.html.

ADOS-2 Training for those evaluating students with ASD will also be available preceding the main conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS, CONTINUED:

8. Save the Date: Florida Child Outcomes Measurement System Regional Meetings

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps, The Technical Assistance and Training System Discretionary Project as well as the Measuring Outcomes for Preschool Children with Disabilities, will be hosting FCOMS regional meetings this fall. Participants will have the opportunity to review and analyze Child Outcomes data for program planning and system development. In addition, participants will explore tools that support reliable data entry, to include (but not limited to): mobile data solution and error reports. The individual/s responsible for reviewing and analyzing child outcomes data would be the most appropriate to participate. Although more than one person may attend the meeting in your region; travel support is available for only one person from each LES. The registration flyer is attached.

Questions may be directed to Liza Smith: Liza.Smith@flhealth.gov or (850) 245-4200 x *2269

2014 Meeting Schedule

- o October 10 - Tallahassee
- o October 13 - Jacksonville
- o October 15 - Ocala
- o October 17 - Chipley
- o October 20 - Boynton Beach
- o October 21 - Naples

MEDICAID UPDATES

9. Medicaid Alerts and Questions

The Florida Medicaid program has an e-mail alert system to supplement the present method of receiving Provider Alerts information and to alert registered subscribers of "late-breaking" health care information. You will receive an email when Medicaid policy clarifications or other health care information is available that is appropriate for your selected area and provider type. Visit the **Florida Medicaid's Health Care Alerts** page at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/alerts/alerts.shtml> to subscribe, unsubscribe, or update your subscription.

10. Fall 2014 Florida Medicaid Provider Bulletin

The Fall 2014 Florida Medicaid Provider Bulletin is now available on the [Medicaid Provider Public Web Portal](#). The bulletin contains policy clarification and important Florida Medicaid information.

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INFORMATION & RESOURCES

11. Notice of Development of Rulemaking

Rule 6A-6.03029, Florida Administrative Code, Development of Family Support Plans for Children with Disabilities Ages Birth Through Five Years. The text for the proposed rule may be viewed at <https://app1.fldoe.org/rules/default.aspx>.

12. Family Café Presentation Proposals Now Being Accepted

The Family Café is pleased to announce that Presentation Proposals for the 17th Annual Family Café, to be held June 5-7, 2015, are now being accepted! The Annual Family Café Conference is a unique, state-wide event that brings together persons with disabilities and their families with peers, commercial service providers, and public entities to find out what services are available to them, which best serve their needs, and how to go about securing those services.

The Family Café Planning Committee is inviting all interested parties to apply to be one of those presenters! Proposals should be submitted prior to December 19, 2014. Decisions regarding acceptance will be made in January, with notification following soon after. (The presenter listed as the “primary presenter” on the application form will be the individual notified.) Once again, the 17th Annual Family Café Conference is scheduled for June 5-7, 2015 and will take place at Caribe Royale in Orlando. All professionals will be charged a registration fee of \$150 unless they are either persons with disabilities or parents of persons with disabilities. Presenters are also responsible for arranging their own transportation and accommodations.

For more information about the Annual Family Café, visit <http://www.familycafe.net/>. If you have any questions regarding the presenter application process, you may contact The Family Café office at 850-224-4670 or toll free at 888-309-CAFE.

PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION

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