



## ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – JANUARY 6, 2011

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### INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

#### RESPONSE TO MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ENTITY DENIALS

It has come to our attention that some of the Medicaid managed care entities are denying authorization and/or payment of IFSP services stating that "Service is duplicative of Early Steps when this is the Early Steps provider for the service". The citation from federal regulations below could be used to respond to these denials. The regulation clearly defines IDEA, Part C (Early Steps) as the payor of last resort and that Medicaid services cannot be denied strictly because the services are for an Early Steps enrolled child. We encourage you to use it.

IDEA Section 640: Payor of Last Resort - Nothing in this part shall be construed to permit the State to reduce medical or other assistance available or to alter eligibility under title V of the Social Security Act (relating to maternal and child health) or title XIX of the Social Security Act (relating to Medicaid for infants or toddlers with disabilities) within the State.

## **EARLY STEPS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY (With 1 Attachment)**

It is with great pleasure that we present the final *Early Steps Strategic Plan for Sustainability* delivered today by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, completed by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. Invitations will go out immediately to recruit the Early Steps Sustainability Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. If they accept, the committee will consist of active participants in the project's stakeholders and our South East Regional Resource Center (SERRC) liaison. The committee will,

- Develop a comprehensive implementation plan with precise timeframes, sequencing and person(s) responsible for completion of each strategy, and,
- Develop a monitoring system for tracking tasks, timeframes, persons responsible and other key factors with a system to inform leadership when delays or other issues are found.

The Statewide Implementation Workgroup (SIWG) and the Florida Interagency Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) will be utilized by the committee during their work.

We have a lot of work to do and this report will help guide us to ensure Early Steps is in Florida for years to come. A special thanks to all Early Steps staff and stakeholders that contributed to this project.

## **PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS THE EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION (EHDI) ACT OF 2010**

On Thursday, December 22, President Obama signed the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act of 2010 (H.R. 1246/S. 3199). The bill, which was passed earlier this month by the Senate, was passed by the House on December 15. The legislation reauthorizes and expands EHDI legislation passed nearly 10 years ago, increasing state funding for follow-up services to ensure that babies initially identified with a potential hearing loss receive full diagnostic evaluations and, if necessary, are enrolled in early intervention programs. The act also promotes culturally sensitive family support services.

## **CHAMPIONS FOR FAMILIES SPOTLIGHTS**

"Learn the Signs. Act Early." announces a new project that highlights the benefits of early awareness and identification efforts through the experiences of individual families.

**Please help us launch this effort by sending this announcement and nomination links through your networks and encouraging families to nominate their family champion!**

Over the past years, "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Partner Spotlights have presented the work of dedicated partners and campaign champions who support the campaign goals of early awareness and identification. Champions for Families Spotlights will be different in several ways. While recognizing an individual, Champion for Families will be nominated by families, and the Spotlights will focus on the child and family, describing how the Champion helped the family *learn the signs and act early*.

These spotlights will provide an opportunity to recognize individuals who demonstrate the importance of **acting early** through diverse voices and perspectives (family member, early educator, health care professional) and to develop a resource of 'family stories' that may be useful to state policy and advocacy activities and in presentations to a variety of audiences.

Champions for Families nominations can be submitted by completing a simple nomination form. Information about Champions for Families and the nomination form are posted on the campaign website at [www.cdc.gov/actearly](http://www.cdc.gov/actearly) as a downloadable PDF for fax or mail submission.

For more information, check out the links below or contact Cheryl Rhodes at [crhodes1@cdc.gov](mailto:crhodes1@cdc.gov).

- [Learn how to nominate a champion](#)
- [Form to nominate a champion](#)

## **MEDICAID: Health Care Alerts & Provider Alerts Messages**

November 2010

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Provider Type(s): 83

Therapy Services Web Page Updates

The Medicaid Therapy Services Web page has been updated with the following additions:

- Therapy Services Utilization Management Self Training
- Therapy Services Utilization Management frequently asked questions
- Announcement for the next Therapy Services public forum
- Tentative dates for Therapy Services public forums for calendar year 2011

The Medicaid Therapy Services Web page can be viewed at the following address:  
<http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/childhealthservices/therapyserv>.

December 2010

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Provider Type(s): ALL

## New 5010 Readiness Site

The Florida Medicaid Public Provider Portal has been updated to include a 5010 Readiness Site. Currently the site has timelines for the transition to 5010 as well as a Readiness Survey for providers who would like to be considered for beta testing. We will periodically add information to include news about the transition to the HIPAA Version 5010 X12 standards. Click [here](#) to view the information.

December 2010

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Provider Type(s): 20, 67, 70, 71, 90

### Updated DME Nutritional Supplement Listing for 2011

Florida Medicaid has posted changes/updates to our DME Nutritional Supplement Listing. These changes are effective January 1, 2011.

To review Medicaid's approved enteral product listing, please visit our fiscal agent's Web site at <http://www.mymedicaid-florida.com/>. Click on *Public Information for Providers*, then *Provider Support*, then *Forms*, and then *2011 Category Lists for the HCPCS Codes for Enteral Formula*.

If you have any questions, please contact the local Medicaid Area Office.

December 2010

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Provider Type(s): 90

### DME Policy Training

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) policy training for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton county providers only will be held on February 3, 2011 at the Medicaid Area Office 1, 160 W. Government St, Room 504, Pensacola from 9 AM 12 PM. Registration is required. Go to <http://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/medres/index.aspx> to register.

January 2011

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Provider Type(s): 83

### Therapy Services Public Forum

The Medicaid Therapy Services Web page has been updated with the following:

- Handbook Update section added
- Therapy Services Provider Forum agenda added

The Medicaid Therapy Services Web page can be viewed at the following address:  
<http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/childhealthservices/therapyserv>.

## **NECTAC NEWS**

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

### **UPCOMING TRAININGS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DEAF-BLINDNESS & THE ROLE OF THE INTERVENER (With 1 Attachment)**

February 10-11, 2011  
Hawthorne Suites, Lake Buena Vista  
8303 Palm Parkway

Please share the following information and attached flyer, on an exciting February 2011 training opportunity. This practical session will provide best practices in deaf-blindness, including brain development, use of touch, communication development, environmental modifications, and differentiated instruction. You may contact the Florida Outreach Project for Children & Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind (FOP) for more information about this valuable training for families affected by dual sensory losses and professionals serving students with multiple disabilities.