



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO –JUNE 2, 2011

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ACTION NEEDED

1. Medicaid Therapy Provider Audit Claims

A small committee, including, Carol Burch, Arnetta Givens, Ann Filloon, Melissa Bottge, Althea Puzio and Harry Fogle will be developing a process for providers to submit claims for Part C payment for services that are being recouped by Medicaid within the Therapy Provider Audit process through the Early Steps State Office. We hope to be able to implement this process beginning July 1, 2011. The only possible hold up might be the approval of our process for the State Comptroller to pay these claims. The Early Steps State Office understands the serious impact this is having on providers' livelihood in this unfortunate situation. Please bear with us while we develop and obtain approval to pay for IFSP authorized services for Early Steps kids that are being recouped by Medicaid.

Local Early Steps are asked to please continue to submit to Carol Burch the dollar amounts for Part C kids that providers are being asked to pay back so we can get a good idea of what the total financial impact on the program will be.

2. LES Contract Invoices

To enable the department to provide ESSO with the amount of Part C grant roll-forward to include in the allocation methodology, we are requesting that the June 2011 LES contract invoices be received by the Contract Manager no later than Wednesday, July 15. This assumes as well that the May 2011 invoice and any other monthly outstanding invoices have also been received.

The Final Invoice due date will remain August 31, but the sooner you sent it the better.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

3. FDA Warns Not to Feed SimplyThick[®] to Premature Infants

This is an official CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
May 27, 2011, 12:30 ET
CDCHAN-00321-ADV-N

NOTE TO READERS: This advisory is an FDA notice that is being distributed via CDC's Health Alert Network.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is recommending that parents, caregivers, and health care providers should not feed the thickening product called SimplyThick to infants born before 37 weeks gestation because it may cause necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening condition characterized by inflammation and death of intestinal tissue.

SimplyThick is a brand of thickening agent—available to consumers and medical centers—to help manage swallowing difficulties. It is sold in packets of individual servings and in 64-ounce dispenser bottles. The product can be purchased from distributors and local pharmacies throughout the United States.

FDA first learned of adverse events possibly linked to SimplyThick on May 13, 2011. At least four different medical centers around the United States have reported NEC in infants who became sick over the past six months. To date, the agency is aware of 17 reports of NEC, including five deaths, involving premature infants born before 37 weeks who were fed SimplyThick mixed with mothers' breast milk or infant formula products. The mixture was fed to infants for varying amounts of time. This situation is unusual because NEC most often occurs in infants while they are in the hospital early in their premature course. However, some of the ill infants of which FDA is aware became ill after they had been discharged from the hospital and sent home on a feeding regimen that included SimplyThick.

At this time, the mechanism by which SimplyThick might contribute to the development of NEC in premature infants is not known, nor is it known whether other thickening agents in addition to SimplyThick might also contribute to the development of NEC. FDA is actively investigating the possible link between SimplyThick and these illnesses and deaths and is attempting to determine whether other thickening agents in addition to SimplyThick could elevate the risk of development of late onset NEC in premature infants.

Recommendations for Parents and Caregivers

- Do not feed SimplyThick to premature infants (born before 37 weeks gestation), including those in the hospital and those sent home from the hospital within the past 30 days.
- Contact your health care professional if your baby has symptoms of bloating, greenish-tinged vomit, or bloody stools, or if you have other concerns related to using SimplyThick.
- You or your health care professional can report side effects related to using SimplyThick or other thickening agents to FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program by:
 - Completing and submitting the report online:
www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm;

- Downloading the pre-addressed, postage-paid FDA Form 3500 (or calling 1-800-332-1088 to request the form), completing it, and faxing it to 1-800-FDA-0178; or
- Mailing the completed form to MedWatch, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

What FDA Is Doing

FDA is actively investigating the possible link between SimplyThick and these illnesses and deaths and is attempting to determine whether thickening agents in addition to SimplyThick could elevate the risk of development of late-onset NEC in premature infants. FDA will provide updates as information is made available.

For More Information

- FDA: Do not feed SimplyThick to premature infants
- FDA Warns Not to Feed SimplyThick to Premature Infants
- SimplyThick product packaging and labels

4. Links for Title X Homeless Contacts and the “60 Minutes” Segment

As promised, please find below the link to the homeless liaisons.

<https://app1.fldoe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/bpsDirectory/directory.aspx>

In “Program Area,” scroll down to “Title X Homeless Contacts.” In “District Area,” select district.

The 60 Minutes segment on Children and Homelessness can be viewed on YouTube at the link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3rkgrvmbBU&feature=related>

5. Staff Changes in the Performance Improvement Unit At ESSO (With 1 Attachment)

Marie Gabbard and Donna Hudson joined the Performance Improvement Unit on 4/15/11. Marie has worked with Early Head Start in Gadsden County for the past several years and has many years of experience in early care and education. Donna most recently worked as a federal project officer providing technical assistance and

monitoring work force providers' use of ARRA funds. She has many years of experience in social services. They will both be a tremendous asset to the bureau!

Anne Glass has moved to a Program Director position at the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at Florida DOE effective June 1. We anticipate that we will have the opportunity to work with Anne on projects involving PreKindergarten students. We wish her well in her new position.

Current Program Manager assignments and Performance Improvement Unit lead assignments are attached.

UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS, OR TRAININGS

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY CENTERED LANGUAGE INTERVENTION: Hanen *It Takes Two to Talk*

Certification Workshop for SLPs
in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. July 21 - 23, 2011

About the It Takes Two to Talk Workshop:

The Hanen Centre's 3-day **It Takes Two to Talk** certification workshop offers outstanding professional development to SLPs who provide services to preschool children with language delays (birth to six years) and their families.

This intensive, small-group training workshop draws on current best practices in family-centered early language intervention and provides an evidence-based approach to empowering parents to become their child's primary language facilitator.

In addition to a one-year membership in the Hanen global network of over 8,000 speech-language professionals and a license to lead **It Takes Two to Talk** Programs, participants receive the following items at their workshop (a \$300 value), as well as **2.1 ASHA CEUs:**

- **It Takes Two to Talk Leader's Guide** - a detailed session-by-session guide, as well as background information on principles of adult education and how these are incorporated into the **It Takes Two to Talk** Program
- **It Takes Two to Talk Parent Guidebook (Pepper & Weitzman, 2004)**

- **It Takes Two to Talk Companion DVD** - follows each chapter of the guidebook with real-life examples of parents applying strategies in their interactions with their children
- **It Takes Two to Talk PowerPoint Program Slides DVD with embedded video clips** - individualized program slides and video examples for each session

For more information about the Hanen workshops, visit www.hanen.org/slpworkshops or call Tom Khan toll-free at 1-877-426-3655 ext. 225.

SPACE LIMITED TO 14 SLPs.

The Hanen Centre has always been a leader and innovator in providing training and support materials for speech-language pathologists involving families in language intervention. The Hanen approach has had a tremendous influence on my work with children and families.

Barry Prizant, PhD

Director, Childhood Communication Services,
Cranston, RI
Adjunct Professor, Brown University Center for the Study of Human Development

The Hanen Centre also offers Advanced Certification Workshops to SLPs who have completed It Takes Two to Talk.

Advanced Workshops for Hanen SLPs

More Than Words[®]

Involving Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

New York, NY. Aug 9-11
Ft. Lauderdale, TX. Dec 1-3

Target Word[®]

Involving Parents of Children who are Late Talkers

Toronto, ON. Sept 19-20
Orlando, FL. Sept 22-23

Learning Language and Loving It[™]

Involving Early Childhood Educators and Teachers

Edmonton, AB. Aug 24-26
Toronto, ON. Oct 17-19