



WEEKLY UPDATE – OCTOBER 3, 2008

ACTION NEEDED

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

Some of the LES contract amendments did not get executed for an effective date of October 1. For those contracts that did not, the executing signature date here at DOH will be November 1, 2008 to avoid the need to split October between the old payment methodology and the new.

REDUCED OR DENIED THERAPY CLAIMS

Please submit copies of inappropriately reduced or denied therapy claims by Amerigroup Medicaid HMO or any other Medicaid HMO to Wilma Jackson by COB, Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

AHCA is having a conference call with Amerigroup on Thursday, October 9 to discuss these issues and reach resolution. Please make sure that the information being faxed or mailed is legible. The transmission of personal identifiable information should not be an issue; however, if you have any doubts, please refer to Early Steps' policies and guidance. Wilma's fax number is 850-245-4295. If you have questions, Wilma can be reached at 850-245-4200 ext. 2224. Thank you for your time.

QUESTIONS REGARDING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

The Division of Blind Services, Children and Families Program funds children's counselors and specially trained early interventionists to serve families of young children with visual impairment. There are also some school districts that provide early vision services. As of September 10th, the Early Steps data base indicated that there were 177 children age 0-3 years that were coded as ECDV – or eligible with significant vision impairment. The Division of Blind Services count for infants and toddlers was 358. The children in the counties on the DBS list were compared to the Early Steps child count for the Local Early Steps areas. Differences in child count numbers are as follows.

Please take a few minutes and reply to [Karen Anderson@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Karen.Anderson@doh.state.fl.us) on the following questions.

What are the typical referral sources for children with visual impairment in your LES?

Who are the providers that serve families of children with visual impairment in your LES?

Are the DBS early intervention providers enrolled Part C providers?

Please share any issues with provider availability or timeliness of services that your LES is experiencing.

Thank you so much for sharing this information.

Local Early Steps Areas	Early Steps	DBS count for 0-3
Western Panhandle (Pensacola area)	3	4
Big Bend (Panama City and Tallahassee area)	17	14
Northeastern (Jacksonville area)	22	36
North Central (Gainesville and surrounding rural area)	8	20
North Beaches (Daytona area)	7	14
Space Coast (Melbourne area)	4	15
Central Florida (Orlando area)	16	31
Bay Area (Tampa and Lakeland)	16	29
West Central (St. Petersburg and northern counties)	11	20
Gulf Central (Sarasota and Bradenton area)	9	15
Southwest Florida (Ft Myers area)	5	10
Treasure Coast (Jupiter and Palm Beach areas)	6	16
Gold Coast (Ft Lauderdale)	20	9
North Dade (North Miami)	19	30 (Dade combined)
Southernmost Coast (South Dade and the Keys)	12	30 (Dade combined)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

MEDI PASS UPDATE

Some of your families may have received the attached flier telling them that beginning October 1 they will have to reenroll during open enrollment if they wish to remain in MediPass. The information in the flier is not completely correct. There was legislation passed last session requiring what the flier states, however, AHCA will not be implementing this October 1st.

There are several major issues for AHCA to resolve before they can implement the legislation. It will require federal waiver approval and they are currently discussing the issues with federal CMS to determine if it is even possible. Once the waiver issues are settled, fiscal agent systems changes will be necessary and AHCA indicated that they can not complete any new systems changes until after all of the current systems problems are fixed.

They do not anticipate being able to implement anything prior to the first of the year and will provide further information and feedback well before implementation. Additionally, they acknowledged the difficulty this would cause our families and indicated that our children will possibly be exempt.

If you get calls from families, please let them know this is not happening October 1 and that if it does occur they will receive the necessary information and instructions directly from Medicaid. We will keep you posted.

NECTAC NEWS

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

SUMMARY OF DISPUTES

Please find the attached summary of disputes involving Children's Medical Services, Early Steps State Office between July 2007 and June 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Purvis, Lead State Parent Consultant, at Kelly_Purvis@doh.state.fl.us.