



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – DECEMBER 15, 2011

ACTION NEEDED

- 1. Updated Contract Documents**

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- 2. ESSO Notice to LESs, Therapists and Other Providers re: 2011 Medicaid Audit Overpayments**
- 3. 2011-2012 Determination Letters**
- 4. Report Addresses the Goals of Primary Care for Children and Adolescents with Spina Bifida**
- 5. 2012 Birth Defects Prevention Month Packet**
- 6. Medicaid Therapy Updates**
- 7. Tardy Welcome to New Staff**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8. Meet Me Calls**

ACTION NEEDED

- 1. Updated Contract Documents**
(With 2 Attachments)

The Monthly Service Coordinator Position Status and Subcontractor Expenditure report templates are attached for LES providers to **complete and submit along with the monthly LES service provision invoices**. These reports are the current versions that need to be used and any other versions are obsolete. If there are any questions or concerns, please let Andrew Johnson and Pam Porter know.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

2. ESSO Notice to LESs, Therapists and Other Providers re: 2011 Medicaid Audit Overpayments

A deadline of **January 9, 2012** has been set to receive new Medicaid audit documentation for reimbursement. New audit claim documentation packages received after that date will not be eligible for reimbursement by Part C funds.

Many audit claim documentation packages that have been received in the ESSO are on hold due to incomplete documentation. Please urge your providers to submit requested additional documentation as soon as possible in order to get final approval for payment processed.

Q&A'S: For further questions or clarifications, providers should contact their LES. For questions or additional information needed by the LES prior to submittal of providers' audit claim documentation packages, the LES should contact Pam Porter (pamela_porter@doh.state.fl.us).

3. 2011-2012 Determination Letters

(With 4 Attachments)

Quality Assurance Reports were issued electronically to each Local Early Steps (LES) on November 4, 2011, and exit conferences were held with each LES. Local Determination letters are being disseminated this week. The populated Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) form and instructions will be emailed to LESs by December 16th. (There have been no changes to the format from last year.) CIPs are due by December 31, 2011 for those LESs who are not in Meet Requirements determination status. Your assigned Program Manager and Performance Improvement Lead will be contacting those LESs early next week to assist with the CIP development process.

There have been no changes to the Determinations Criteria or process for this year. Attached are the *Determination Bottom Lines and Determinations Criteria* to

remind you about the specific criteria and process for how Local Determinations were made. Please contact Sally Golden-McCord at Sally_Golden-McCord@doh.state.fl.us if you have questions about the process.

4. Report Addresses the Goals of Primary Care for Children and Adolescents with Spina Bifida

"The standard of care for children and youth with spina bifida remains a program of comprehensive and multidisciplinary support, and the medical home plays a central role," state the authors of a clinical report published in the December 2011 issue of Pediatrics. According to the National Birth Defects Prevention Network, more than 160,000 Americans under age 18 are affected by spina bifida, and the 30-year survival rate has improved to nearly 90 percent. Diagnosis of spina bifida and other neural tube defects is now often made early in pregnancy through screening and fetal ultrasonography, and this provides time for families to plan and make decisions. The report reviews aspects of care specific to the infant with spina bifida that facilitate optimal medical, functional, and developmental outcomes.

(In the report, the term "spina bifida" is used interchangeably with "myelomeningocele.")

The authors discuss spina bifida types, description, and implications; systemic effects of myelomeningocele; potential roles of pediatric primary care health professionals; and primary care interventions typically provided to children and adolescents with spina bifida.

Topics include hydrocephalus, development, bowel function, urinary tract function, mobility, orthopedic problems, skin care, sexuality, transition to adult health care, and family support.

"These and other resources can help in developing a care plan covering from birth through transition and transfer to adult health care, with focus on specific needs at each age and stage," the authors conclude.

Burke R, Liptak GS, and the Council on Children with Disabilities. 2011. Providing a primary care medical home for children and youth with spina bifida. Pediatrics 128(6):e1645-e1657. Abstract available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/128/6/e1645?ct=ct>.

Readers: More information is available from the following MCH Library resources:

- Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs: Knowledge Path at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_CSHCN.html

- Kids and Teens with Special Health Care Needs: Resources for Families at http://www.mchlibrary.info/families/frb_CSHCN.html

5. 2012 Birth Defects Prevention Month Packet

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network's Education and Outreach Committee is pleased to present the 2012 Birth Defects Prevention Month packet, focusing on congenital heart defects, "And the Beat Goes On...Looking to the Future for Healthy Hearts." The packet materials are available at <http://www.nbdpn.org/bdpm2012.php>. These resources can be shared with colleagues, policy makers, families, and others during Birth Defects Prevention Month and throughout the year.

Limited quantities of the birth defects prevention month posters, flyers, and brochures are available by e-mailing cmai@cdc.gov.

The committee asks that you provide feedback regarding this year's packet and suggestions for future materials by completing the evaluation. The evaluation can be accessed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6LYL2QY>.

If you should have any questions about the materials, please contact Mary Knapp at mary.knapp@doh.state.nj.us or Cara Mai at cmai@cdc.gov.

The committee hopes that you find the information and materials useful in promoting your campaigns for Birth Defects Prevention Month, January 2012.

6. Medicaid Therapy Updates

AHCA's Medicaid Therapy Forum held on December 9th covered lots of new useful information. The most exciting was the live demonstration review of updated eQHealth data entry screens and their discussion of commonly asked questions. It is very important to note that significant changes have been made to the prior authorization process, with many additional changes scheduled to occur in the near future. They have listened to the many challenges from the field, and with AHCA's blessing, are making improvements to streamline the process and make it somewhat less burdensome. A few examples include modifications to eQSuite to reduce screen entries and duplicate requests for information, with many screens going away altogether, and changes to requirements for documentation submittals.

AHCA encourages everyone to look for updates through one or both of the following website links:

eQHealth Solutions: <http://fl.eqhs.org/> and

AHCA Therapy Services: <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/childhealthservices/therapyserv/index.shtml>

In these websites you can find links to such documents as "Area Office Contacts for Therapy Services" listing, Map of Florida Medicaid Area Offices location and contact information; 2012 Schedule of monthly "Verify Medicaid Recipient Eligibility Training" webinars; as well as updates to the eQHealth review process and Q & A's.

7. Tardy Welcome to New Staff

We failed to announce two new staff to Early Steps!

Judy (Corso) Sloop joined ESSO on September 28 in a part-time temporary position to provide technical assistance on the Primary Service Provider approach to service delivery. She is currently assisting the Central Florida Early Steps and Gulf Central/Southwest Florida Early Steps. We wish we could afford to have her provide technical assistance to all the LESs, but our funds will likely only allow one more LES this fiscal year.

Tamika Leland joined ESSO on October 22 in a part-time position responsible for the Continuing Education certificate processing and applying for CEUs for course.

WELCOME Tamika and Judy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

8. Meet Me Calls

The Meet Me calls on the topic of "The Role of Midwives in Newborn Hearing Screening" had about 25 participants. The majority of the evaluation responses were in the "excellent" range with a lot of positive comments. Information for the next calls is as follows:

TOPIC: Changing Health Care Financing for EHDI Programs: The Essential Elements of Reimbursement

PRESENTER: Dr. Robert Fifer of Mailman Center for Child Development in Miami

WHEN: January 11, 2012 at 10:00 am or at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. These will be repeat session, so only plan on attending one.

WHERE: Via Conference Call

DESCRIPTION: There is a tremendous push to reduce the overall cost of healthcare services. Infant hearing and pediatric services are caught in this tidal wave of proposals to decrease reimbursement, shift costs, and shift responsibilities for financial support of all healthcare services. This presentation will focus on the trends currently taking place, principles of coding for hospital and outpatient settings, coding, and documentation requirements.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Providers of pediatric hearing services (screenings, evaluations, and early intervention)

PRESENTATION MATERIAL: Will be posted soon!

CALL IN NUMBER: 888-808-6959 access code: 2454201

CEU CREDIT: Nurses, audiologists, and speech-language pathologists can earn 1.5 hours by sending the **original** completed sign-in sheet and evaluation that will soon be posted at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cms/nbscreen-hearing.html> **after the call** to:

Pam Tempson
EHDI Coordinator
Children's Medical Services
Florida's Newborn Screening Program
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin #A06
Tallahassee, FL 32311

REGISTRATION: Not necessary.

PREVIOUS MEET ME CALLS PRESENTATION MATERIAL:
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cms/nbscreen-hearing.html>