Early Intervention Program

NYSAC Legislative Conference
January 28, 2019
Early Intervention (EI) Program Updates
Agenda

• FY 2020 Executive Budget Proposal
• Amendments to EIP Regulations at 10 NYCRR 69-4
• Assessing/Addressing Provider Capacity
• Medicaid State Plan Amendments
• EIP Reminders and Resources
FY 2020 Executive Budget Proposal – Early Intervention Program (EIP)

Increase EI rates by 5 percent for services provided by licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists

• Increase reimbursement rates for services furnished to eligible infants and toddlers in the Early Intervention Program and their families by licensed physical therapists (PT), occupational therapists (OT), and speech-language pathologists (SLP) by 5 percent.

• The rate increase also applies to reimbursement for supplemental evaluations furnished by these practitioners.
FY 2020 Executive Budget Proposal (EIP)

- Based on cleaned Annual Performance Report (APR) data submitted on 2/1/2018 for PY 2016 – 17:
  - Out of 1943 delayed services, nearly 75% were because of a provider capacity issue
  - Out of 1450 delayed services, 37% were due to unavailability of an SLP, 23% OT, and 21% PT

The increase is intended to help attract providers to begin providing EI services and to retain current EI providers, with the goals of decreasing provider capacity concerns, improving timeliness and quality of service delivery in the EIP, and recognizing the specialized education and training of these service providers.
FY 2020 Executive Budget Proposal (EIP)

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the effective date of the 5% rate increase?
A: April 1, 2019

Q: In what settings will the rate increase apply?
A: The 5% rate increase applies to home and community-based and facility-based EI services.
FY 2020 Executive Budget Proposal (EIP)

Q: Does the 5% rate increase apply to multidisciplinary evaluations?
A: No, the rate increase does not apply to multidisciplinary evaluations. The 5% rate increase does apply to supplemental evaluations provided by licensed rehabilitation therapists.

Q: What is the funding source for the increase?
A: The general fund. EI services are reimbursed through commercial insurance, Medicaid, and escrow funds, including a local portion.
Proposed Amendments to EI Regulations

- Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) issued 7/12/17
  - Two public hearings in August, 2017
  - Assessment of Public Comment resulted in substantive changes
- A Notice of Revised Rule Making was issued on 8/1/2018 for a 30-day public comment period
  - Assessment of Public Comment resulted in no substantive changes
- A Notice of Adoption was published in the NYS Register on December 5, 2018
Amendments to EI Regulations

• Definitions
  • Section 69-4.1(a) – definition of “approval” is revised and a definition of “approved provider” is added
  • Section 69-4.1 (o) and (q) are amended to distinguish between the evaluation and the initial evaluation to determine eligibility; definition of “family assessment” changed to conform with the federal definition
Amendments to EI Regulations

- *Family assessment* means a voluntary family-directed assessment conducted by qualified personnel to identify family priorities, resources and concerns, which the family decides are relevant to their ability to enhance their child’s development, and the supports and services necessary to enhance the family’s capacity to meet the developmental needs of the family’s infant or toddler with a disability.
Amendments to EI Regulations

Changes to qualifications for service coordinators

• All early intervention service coordinators shall meet the following qualifications:
• (1) a minimum of one of the following educational or service coordination experience credentials:
  * * * *
• (iv) a Bachelor’s degree in a health or human service field[.]; or
• (v) a license, certification, or registration in one of the professions listed in section 69-4.1(al) of this Subpart.
Amendments to EI Regulations

Section 49-4.1(al)(4) and (5) -
Add licensed behavior analysts and certified behavior analyst assistants as qualified personnel

Section 69-4.25 - Standards for agency providers approved to use applied behavior analysis (ABA) aides in the delivery of ABAs repealed
Amendments to EI Regulations

Amendment to conflict of interest provisions

Section 69-4.11 was amended to allow evaluators or approved agencies that conduct evaluations to also provide EI services authorized by the EIO and included in the child’s IFSP to the same child unless it is documented by the EIO that this course of action is not in the best interest of the child and family.
Amendments to EI Regulations

Referral form – change to section 69-4.3
Requires primary referral sources to complete and transmit a referral form and, with parental consent, to transmit information sufficient to document the primary referral source’s concern or basis for suspecting the child has a disability.
Amendments to EI Regulations

Changes to screening and evaluation – section 69-4.8

• Of the approximately 54,000 MDEs that take place in the EIP each year, about half result in a finding of ineligibility for the EIP

• Offering screening first has the potential to reduce the overall number of MDEs and right size the processes in place for children referred to the EIP

• Decisions about whether to screen or proceed directly to MDE are made by qualified EI providers who conduct evaluations

• Parents may request an MDE at any point in the screening process if they so choose
Amendments to EI Regulations

Children referred to the EIP with suspected developmental delay can either receive a screening to determine if further evaluation is warranted or a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE).

MDE serves to 1) establish eligibility for the EIP and 2) provide data to assist with service planning.
Amendments to EI Regulations

Children referred to the EIP with a diagnosed condition with a high probability of developmental delay –

Initial eligibility for the EIP is established through record review – section 69-4.23

Multidisciplinary assessment (MDA) is used for service planning – section 69-4.8
Amendments to EI Regulations

Changes to section 69-4.22 – require that providers submit all claims for payment of evaluations and services within 90 days form the date of service.

Only exception is delays due to extraordinary circumstances where the Department’s fiscal agent has been notified and provided written acknowledgment.
Provider Capacity

• Streamlined conflict of interest provisions
• Clarified service coordinator qualifications
• Added licensed and certified ABA practitioners
• Provide technical assistance
• Other proposals/strategies?
Provider Capacity
EIP Central Directory

www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/service_providers/

Central Directory of Early Intervention Services and Resources

1. The Central Directory contains information concerning agencies and individuals with an approved agreement to provide evaluations, service coordination and early intervention services to children under the age of three with disabilities or delays and their families.

The Central Directory is divided into sections:

- Agencies/Municipalities with Appendix Agreements (XLSX) - filterable list
- Individuals
  - Individuals with Appendix Agreements (XLSX) - filterable list
  - Individuals with Basic Agreements/Pending Agreements (XLSX) - filterable list
- Agency and Individual Service Coordination Providers by County/Borough (XLSX) - filterable list

Please refer to the key in the upper left corner of the attachment and below. Additional information regarding a Service Coordinator, including their contact information, can be found in the applicable Agencies or Individuals filterable list.

**KEY:**
- X = Provides Service Coordination
- ISG = Provides only Initial Service Coordination
- HH = Provides SC via Medicaid Health homes
- OPWDD = Provides SC via NYS OPWDD

**Filterable List:** Sections can be filtered by column heading descriptor(s) (e.g., Identified Service Areas, Professional Discipline/Qualified Personnel, Languages, Special Populations Served). To filter a column click on the drop down arrow in the column you wish to filter. Text Filters, Contains (e.g., Albany, Speech Language Pathologist, Spanish, Autism). To clear filter click on the drop down arrow and select “Clear Filter From ___.”

The information contained in the Directory was last updated on December 2, 2016. The approval of additional providers and/or changes in personnel is ongoing therefore the Directory will be updated routinely. Current Providers with Appendix Agreements who would like to revise or add information recorded in the Central Directory (specifically: Mission, Experience, Service Coordination...).
EIP Central Directory

For example: Open the Individuals with Appendix Agreements (XLSX) - filterable list
### EIP Central Directory

You have a list of the qualified personnel with an Appendix Agreement in the particular county you searched.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Name</th>
<th>DOH State</th>
<th>NPI 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aroesty, Cheryl Ann</td>
<td>28059</td>
<td>1164670733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiMarco, Kathleen</td>
<td>24061</td>
<td>1331335333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebert, Elizabeth</td>
<td>3080</td>
<td>1301040076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoke, Judith S</td>
<td>1373</td>
<td>1841443090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platek, Rosalie</td>
<td>16941</td>
<td>1881630867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# EIP Central Directory

## Brief Description or Mission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>W</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor Disorders, Oral Motor Disorders, Sensory Integration Disorders, Vision Impairments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 plus</td>
<td>My name is Cheryl Arostey. I am currently providing Occupational Therapy services to pre-school children in Wayne and Ontario County. I have over 20 years of experience in OT services starting with skilled nursing, sub-acute, hospital and home health. I have spent the last 7 years working with preschool children. I enjoy being an Occupational Therapist and helping children be the best they can be.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autism/PDD, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Dyspraxia, Feeding/Swallowing Disorders, Motor Disorders, Oral Motor Disorders, Prematurity, Sensory Integration Disorders, Vision Impairments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 plus</td>
<td>As an occupational therapist and an early intervention provider, I seek to service my children with the most current and up to date treatment practices. I do so, by engaging in continuing education and professional development on a regular basis. I am currently educated in the most up to date practices in servicing children with autism, sensory integration or processing delays, and fine motor delays. Additionally, I have studied the most recent treatment practices for children with feeding difficulties. I have more than 20 years of experience, but believe in being a lifelong learner to ensure that I stay at the top of my profession and provide my clients with the best possible treatment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 plus</td>
<td>I have been a pediatric occupational therapist for many years and have experience with children with a wide variety of strengths and needs. I am a strong proponent of family centered care and recognize that my time with the child is limited. I strive to find out what is the parent's primary concern and address it by helping parents find solutions that work for their family. I make flexible plans for sessions. I come prepared but do not mind changing when parents have a more pressing need at that time. I keep the sessions relaxed and enjoyable but productive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autism/PDD, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Feeding/Swallowing Disorders, Medically Complex, Mental Retardation, Motor Disorders, Oral Motor Disorders, Prematurity, Seizure Disorders, Sensory Integration Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, Vision Impairments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 plus</td>
<td>I am an occupational therapist with 30+ years of pediatric experience working with children and their families in a variety of settings including the NICU, acute care, clinics, homes, preschools and school-aged environments. I am NOT certified and have extensive experience providing services to address various areas of concern including but not limited to developmental/motor delays, orthopedic/neurological problems, sensorimotor/sensory processing issues, as well as oral motor/feeding concerns. I feel it is very important to look at the whole child, including their family unit, and begin where the child/family are at, building on their strengths to improve outcomes in the areas of concern.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autism/PDD, Down Syndrome, Dyspraxia, Psychiatric/Behavioral/Emotional Disorders, Sensory Integration Disorders</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 plus</td>
<td>I am an occupational therapist who has been a practicing therapist for 33 years with 20 years of experience in pediatrics. I specialize in working with children who are experiencing sensory processing disorders, are on the autism spectrum, sensory feeding issues and fine motor delays.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Occupational Therapist Assistants

OTAs:
- Can deliver EI services as a direct employee of an agency.
- The agency should notify the municipality, SC and parent that an OTA is delivering EI services. It is recommended that the IFSP include the details of the supervision.
Physical Therapist Assistants

PTAs:

• Can deliver EI services as a direct employee of an agency.
• They limited to delivering services only where on-site supervision can be provided by a PT.
• The agency should notify the municipality, SC and parent that an PTA is delivering EI services. It is recommended that the IFSP include the details of the supervision.
School Psychologists:

- Can deliver a variety of EI services as a direct employee of an agency.
- They cannot provide a diagnosis.
- “Permission” expires by law on June 30, 2018, but is in the process of being extended for an additional two years (to June 30, 2020).
Service Coordinators: Education and/or Experience (minimum of 1)—

Education:
- Associate Degree in a health or human service field/1 yr. SC experience
- Bachelor’s Degree in a health or human service field
- EIP Qualified License/Certification/Registration
- No college degree
  - Two years of SC activities, or
  - One year of SC and an additional one year in a service setting with infants and toddlers with developmental delays/disabilities
Appendix Providers

Must:
• Have DOH Approval. Agency approval takes four to six months for completion.
• Obtain clearance with the Justice Center and the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR).
• Depending on the agency’s entity they may need to apply to SED for a waiver to utilize licensed providers.
• Obtain EI Medicaid Enrollment.
SC Knowledge/Understanding–

- Infants and toddlers who may be eligible for EIP
- State and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the EIP
- Principles of family centered services
- The nature and scope of services available under the EIP and the system of payments for services in the State and
- Other pertinent information
SC Determining Qualifications–

Who determines if an individual is a qualified SC?

• Employer: as part of the interview process

Individuals/parents with diverse backgrounds, unique connections to the community, to participate as service coordinators within a supervised employment setting.
SC Document to Assist–

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Early Intervention

QUALIFICATIONS OF EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM-SERVICE COORDINATORS

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT
The purpose of this document is to assist employers in determining if an individual meets the qualifications of an Early Intervention Program (EIP) Service Coordinator.

BACKGROUND
A Service Coordinator is someone who works in partnership with the family by providing assistance and services that help the family to coordinate and obtain their rights under the EIP and services agreed upon in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

These qualifications facilitate the ability of approved providers of service coordination services to employ service coordinators with appropriate education and/or experience who are not otherwise considered “qualified personnel” under the EIP. This flexibility in hiring service coordinators makes it possible for individuals with diverse experiential backgrounds or unique connections to communities to be hired to serve as service coordinators in the EIP within a supervised employment setting.

As defined in NYS EIP Regulations (69-4.4(a)), a Service Coordinator shall meet the following qualifications:

- A minimum of one of the following educational or service coordination experience credentials:
  - Two years of experience in service coordination activities as delineated in regulation (Voluntary or part-time experience which can be verified will be accepted on a pro rata basis);
  - One year of service coordination experience and an additional year of experience in a service setting with infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities;
  - One year of service coordination experience and an associate degree in a health or human service field;
  - A bachelor’s degree in a health or human service field;
  - A license, certification, or registration in one of the professions listed in section 69-4.1(a);

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the following areas:
  - Infants and toddlers who may be eligible for Early Intervention (EI) services;
  - State and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the Early Intervention Program;
  - Principles of family-centered services;
  - The nature and scope of services available under the Early Intervention Program and the system of payments for services in the State; and
  - Other pertinent information.
SC Training—

As outlined in the EI Provider Agreement, an individual who will provide service coordination in the EIP must complete:

- DOH-sponsored Introduction to Service Coordination training prior to providing SC activities (https://www.nyseipopdc.org/)

- Minimum of one professional development activity (totaling a minimum of 1.5 clock hours) directly related to SC per calendar year
Contact Information – BEI Provider Approval Unit

Email: provider@health.ny.gov

Phone: 518-473-7016 (press 1 when prompted)
State Plan Amendments

Two Medicaid State Plan amendments were submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by September 30, 2018.

SPA 18-0017 – Targeted Case Management
SPA 18-0039 – EI Services
EI Service Coordination – SPA 18-0017

• This State Plan amendment (SPA) proposes two separate fixed rates for Initial Service Coordination and one monthly fixed rate for Ongoing Service Coordination
  – ISC rate with no IFSP meeting
  – ISC rate with IFSP meeting
• Discussions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are in progress
• Note: Documentation requirements for service coordination activities will continue to apply regardless of the payment methodology
Billing Transition

BEI and the State Fiscal Agent work together to ensure timely payments to EI service providers

• BEI data show that EI providers continue to submit claims timely

• Payment of claims is also timely
# Provider Submission of Claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q2 2016</th>
<th>Q3 2016</th>
<th>Q4 2016</th>
<th>Q1 2017</th>
<th>Q2 2017</th>
<th>Q3 2017</th>
<th>Q4 2017</th>
<th>Q1 2018</th>
<th>Q2 2018</th>
<th>Q3 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claims Submitted (*1,000,000)</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.363</td>
<td>2.033</td>
<td>2.046</td>
<td>2.323</td>
<td>2.355</td>
<td>2.055</td>
<td>2.147</td>
<td>2.343</td>
<td>2.374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Days from Date of Service</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Days</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90th% Days</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeliness is calculated as the number of days from the date the service was provided to the date the claim was submitted to the Early Intervention Program (NYEIS or Eibilling.com).
## Full Provider Payment for All Claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q2 2016</th>
<th>Q3 2016</th>
<th>Q4 2016</th>
<th>Q1 2017</th>
<th>Q2 2017</th>
<th>Q3 2017</th>
<th>Q4 2017</th>
<th>Q1 2018</th>
<th>Q2 2018</th>
<th>Q3 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claims Submitted (*1,000,000)</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.363</td>
<td>2.033</td>
<td>2.046</td>
<td>2.323</td>
<td>2.355</td>
<td>2.055</td>
<td>2.147</td>
<td>2.343</td>
<td>2.374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Paid in Full (*1,000,000)</td>
<td>2.241</td>
<td>2.357</td>
<td>2.027</td>
<td>2.037</td>
<td>2.315</td>
<td>2.347</td>
<td>2.044</td>
<td>2.130</td>
<td>2.306</td>
<td>2.332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Days</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Median Days</td>
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<td>14</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>90(^{th})% Days</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Unpaid</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
<td>1.79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeliness is calculated as the number of days from the date the claim is submitted to the Early Intervention Program (NYEIS or Eibilling.com) to the date the claim is paid in full by all payers (Escrow, Medicaid, or Commercial Insurance).
Training
New York State Early Intervention Program Online Professional Development Center Website: https://www.nyseipopdc.org
NYS EIP Online PD Website Includes:

- Course Descriptions
- Instructions for enrolling in a course
- Technical Requirements
- Technical Support
- FAQs
- User Guide
Statistics

- As of 1/17/19, there were 685 enrollees in the self-paced ISC course.
- Of those enrollees, 432 have completed the course and obtained a certificate of completion.
- Participants on average are completing the course within 3 days.
- 464: Total completed live and self-paced
Feedback from Training Participants

• Feedback from training participants has been generally positive.
• People find the learning platform easy to navigate, enjoy the videos and quizzes/polling.
Year 2 of the Contract

Next trainings to be converted and delivered (online live and online self-paced)

- Transition
- Insurance Responsibilities
- Eligibility and Evaluation
Reminders
State Systemic Improvement Plan

- Improve Early Intervention outcomes for infants, toddlers and their families
- Required by the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
Cohort Timelines

Cohort 1

- In-person meetings held in Jan. & Feb. 2018
  - Attendance: 29 Parents, 54 Providers, 25 Service Coordinators, and 41 local Early Intervention staff
  - 35 teams total between all 3 UCEDDs
- Teams have held monthly calls since Feb. Last monthly call will be in Dec. 2018

Cohort 2

- Continuing recruitment for Cohort 2 county teams (Aiming for 30 teams)
- In-person meetings will be held in Oct. 2018
- Teams will have monthly calls from Nov. 2018 to Sept. 2019

UCEDDs will collect the data from the PDSAs of both Cohorts and summarize into best practices (Oct. – Dec 2019) to be turned into training for counties and providers (Jan. – Dec. 2020)
Regions by University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at Rochester University of Medicine

Westchester Institute for Human Development

Rose F. Kennedy Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Montefiore Medical Center

*Highlighted counties are part of Cohort 2
Guidance on Meeting Social Emotional Needs of Infants and Toddlers

• Guidance on supporting social emotional development
• Covers
  – importance of social emotional development
  – developmental milestones
  – identifying and addressing concerns
  – when and how to make a referral to the Early Intervention Program
• Provides resources and supports for infants and toddlers and their families
• Discusses successful transition to other early childhood services at age three
• Provides guidance to professionals on developing the knowledge and skills needed to support young children and their families in enhancing and supporting positive social emotional development
Guidance on Meeting Social Emotional Needs of Infants and Toddlers

Electronic version sent out on listserv and located on DOH website


Hard copies printed
e-mail to b0019w@health.ny.gov - Include "Publication #: 4226", as well as your name and address to send the document to, and quantity
EICC Social-Emotional Guidance Document Workgroup

Priority Projects

• **Reference Guide:** Supplement to Guidance Document for EIP Workforce

• **E-Learning:** Use of Guidance Document for EIP Workforce hosted on SDOH Learning Management System (LMS)

• **Webpage:** On social-emotional development for families

❖ All items will be placed on new NYS BEI Social-Emotional Development Webpage
Clinical Practice Guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Electronic Copies can be found at

HH Resources and Questions

• Please send questions or comments on Health Homes Serving Children to: hhsc@health.ny.gov or contact the Health Home Program at the NYS Department of Health at 518.473.5569 and copy BEI at the Technical Assistance email address: bei@health.ny.gov

• Stay current by visiting our website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/medicaid_health_homes/hh_children/index.htm
Early Intervention Resources

Technical Assistance: bei@health.ny.gov


Family-Centered Services Scale: http://ectacenter.org

Quality Improvement Breakthrough Series: http://www.ihi.org