

Therapy Work Group Minutes March 8, 2006

Committee Members and Guests in Attendance:

Marilyn Strickland- Medicaid
Cheryl Freeman- Medicaid
Jarrod McClain, RN- AFMC (via conference call)
Angela Traweek, OT
Julia Washburn, OT
Judy Eddington, SLP
Beth Stamp, PT
Debbie Ashworth, PT
Shelly Wier, SLP
Kim Jones, SLP
Shelia Gifford- EDS
Ruth Castleberry-Governor's Early Intervention Coordination Council
Peggy Starling- Manager Provider Relations for Medicaid Managed Care
Tony Boaz-Arkansas Department of Education

Current Therapy Issues Discussed

1. Committee members were presented with several tests that providers have requested be added to the acceptable test list. The specific ones discussed at this meeting were: 1) Clinical Assessment of Articulation and Phonology (CAAP) This is a relatively new test and there is not a lot of research out concerning its validity and reliability. Therefore, the committee did not make a recommendation for or against this test. One of the speech therapists on the committee volunteered to research this test. If adequate information cannot be obtained after her review, this test will then be sent to professors at UCA for a recommendation. 2) Mullen Test of Early Learning - This test is already on the acceptable test list for speech and OT but not for PT. It was recommended that this test be added to the acceptable gross motor test list as a supplemental. It cannot stand-alone. 3) Test of Infant Motor Performance (TIMP)- No decision was made on this test until all the information provided by the requesting provider could be reviewed in detail. 4) The SPAT- This test will be accepted for speech but there is some area for abuse of this test. Jarrod McClain will discuss the use of this test in more detail at the open meeting in April. An updates list will be available after promulgation in November.
2. A discussion was held as to when older versions of tests will be considered obsolete. The committee recommended that if any test is already on the acceptable test list and a newer version is published, the new version would automatically be added to the list in addition to the older version. The committee feels that all versions of an accepted test is appropriate to use, with the exception of the Goldman-Fristoe 1st Edition.
3. The committee has developed basic guidelines to use in the area of speech language concerning all foreign languages, not just the Hispanic population. These guidelines cover who can be used as an interpreter, tests to be used and length of time. Jarrod McClain will have handouts of these guidelines at the open meeting. At the present time, payment of an interpreter will be the responsibility of the provider or EI funds can be used for this. It was also brought to the attention of the committee that more evaluation time is needed, over the 2 hours

- presently allowed, when performing evaluations on foreign speaking children or even with the severely handicapped.
4. Tony Boaz with the Department of Education discussed the need for consent from parents to release information to AFMC for review purposes. He states that under FERPA (1973) that all school records are considered educational records and not medical records. The consent for the release of this information could be added to the present informed consent that parents sign at the time of the IEP. There is a sample form that could be used on the Special Education web site under "Schools and Medicaid". This web site is <http://arksped.k12.ar.us>. Mr. Boaz also clarified that children being serviced under a 504 plan cannot be billed to Medicaid. This is not a Medicaid issue rather it is against federal law.
 5. Judy Eddington with Early Intervention reports that the voucher program is currently having open enrollment. Any interested providers should call 501-682-8697.
 6. Peggy Starling, manager of provider relations for Medicaid Managed Care, a subsidiary of AFMC reports that she and her staff are currently going through all provider manuals to determine physician signature requirements, as some manuals require original signatures while others do not. She hopes to have more information on this issue at the time of the open meeting, regarding possible use of stamped signatures from physicians on therapy prescriptions. Peggy did want to emphasize that the date should always be hand written in and not typed.
 7. Shelia Gifford with EDS reports that a form has been developed for school providers to fill out to prevent their individual provider numbers from being deactivated. This was occurring due to the fact that their individual provider numbers were not being billed under in a 12-month time frame. Ms. Gifford reports that this seems to be working well. Ruth Castleberry brought to the committee members' attention that this does not only occur with school-based therapists but also with therapists who are employees of DDTCS centers. Therefore, Ms. Gifford reported that she will follow-up on this.
 8. Mrs. Strickland reports that a rate request has been received and being reviewed at a higher administrative level.
 9. Committee members are taking turns typing the minutes from the workgroup meetings. Debbie Ashworth agreed to do the minutes from this meeting.

The next work group meeting is Wednesday, July 12th. The next open meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th, Blue Flame Room. It is located at 400 E. Capitol in Little Rock. It is the same building as the Office of Child Support Enforcement. Providers can park in the lots directly north of the building on 4th street or at the overflow lot at 3rd and Rock. The meeting will be held from 10:00-12:00.

Providers please contact your appropriate representatives for any comments, concerns or questions regarding the previously listed or new therapy topics.