

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers October 2016



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

October 25, 2016; 10am—11am: Monthly webinar; Specialty Services Update by Perkins

November 30, 2016; 10am—3pm: EI Program Director Session, Sturbridge Host

Topic: Bringing Meaning to SSIP Activities & Integration into the MA EI System

Note: Programs may bring multiple staff such as Supervisors and/or Team Leaders to the training. Additional information regarding registration will be forthcoming.



Please be sure to check out Resources & Trainings:

[Massachusetts Law Reform Institute Title VI : Providing Services to Limited English Proficient Persons](#)

[Important Changes for Members of Managed Care Organization and Primary Care Clinician Plans](#)

[Coordinating Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs Tip Sheet for MassHealth—CommonHealth](#)

[Feeding Matters: 5th Pediatric Feeding Conference 2017](#)

[Ron Benham and Tiffany Gundler—Early Learning Making a Difference Blogs](#)

[2016 PNQIN Fall Summit Save the Date](#)

[Guidance Document on Vision Loss: Eligibility for EI and Partnering with Perkins School for the Blind](#)

DPH Updates

Reminder—Billing Guidance and Updates

As you know, the DPH, EI programs and SSPs for Autism have been working for the past several months on the implementation of billing changes for Autism services. You should have been receiving emails from DPH regarding this on a regular basis. Please be sure to share any guidance or updates regarding billing and insurance information with the appropriate staff at your agency. This process is very complex and has been challenging for everyone. Making sure that information is consistently communicated throughout your agency with the appropriate staff members will assist in the implementation process. Thank you for your patience and hard work!

Important Changes for MassHealth Members of MCO & PCC Plans

There will be important changes for MassHealth members who are either with a Managed Care Organization (MCO) Health Plan, or with the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan:

Please see the link to the MassHealth [website](#) for the details of these rule changes, effective October 1, 2016. Also, visit this [link](#) for copies of the letters to be sent out to MassHealth members.

MassHealth Members of MCOs will have 90 days to change MCO Plans for any reason ("Plan Selection Period": October 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016). After that time, starting on January 1, 2017, MCO Members will be in a "Fixed Enrollment Period" and cannot change their health plan until the next Plan Selection Period on October 1, 2017, except for certain reasons, which are listed in the attached sample letter. Every year will have a 90-day Plan Selection Period (for MCOs) followed by the Fixed Enrollment Period.

For Members enrolled in the PCC Plan, there are new rules that some health care services that did not need referrals before, will now need to have a referral come from the primary care doctor in order to receive the particular service.

Meaningful Language for Parents

Programs are reminded that both state and federal laws require that meaningful language access is afforded to parents of children receiving EI services who are of limited English proficiency (LEP). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin in program that receive federal assistance, including Part C services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The [attachment](#) provides an overview of the obligation to ensure an individual's rights under Title VI. DPH will provide additional training and guidance in a future webinar.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Updates

Phase III of the SSIP covers a period of three years, February 2017 to February 2020. Submission of Phase III is due to OSEP April 1, 2017. At that time, the Department will assess and report on its progress in implementing the SSIP. This includes data collection and analysis on the extent to which the State has made progress toward and/or met the State short term and long term objectives for implementation of the SSIP. It will also include the progress achieved in the State-Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) in improving social-emotional outcomes for children. DPH will continue to meet with Stakeholders to get feedback on the implementation plan and develop strategies to support the implementation at the local program level.

BDI—2 Video Submissions

Reminder: Videos may be submitted to DPH anytime prior to December 31, 2016.

If there are programs that would like to submit a BDI-2 video administered in Spanish for their SSIP requirement, please contact Noah Feldman by Friday, October 14, 2016. To date, no programs have been interested in this option.

PIWI Trainings

We are currently beginning planning for Cohort 2 for PIWI training. We are planning to send out the implementation information and the training sign-up link by the end of October.

IFSP Outcome Evaluation

Reminder: As part of our SSIP evaluation plan, we will be reviewing IFSP outcomes at each program. Your Regional Specialist will be contacting you to schedule a day to come to your program to collect this information.

BDI—2 Update

We have been notified that Houghton Mifflin Harcourt™ will release the ***Battelle Developmental Inventory 2nd Edition - Normative Update (BDI-2™ NU)***. This update accommodates significant changes in demographic characteristics since 2000, the year in which the ***BDI-2*** original normative data was based.

At this time, Massachusetts Early Intervention will NOT be transitioning to use the Normative Update. This decision was made primarily due to the fiscal implications of doing this transition at this time. In order to make this change, programs would have had to purchase all new examiner manuals with the updated Appendices for scoring.

If there are any programs who are using the BDI-2 Data Manager, please note that these normative updates will be the DEFAULT in that system. You will have to ensure that you are using the original scoring tables.

If you would like more information about the normative update, please go to:

<http://learn.hmhco.com/bdi2nuannouncement>

NAS Fall Summit

Please see the attached [flyer](#) for the NAS Fall Summit. This year will be a joint summit between Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative of Massachusetts (NeoQIC) and the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MPQC). As in previous years, there will be a mix of formal presentations, break-out sessions, and time spent focused on local hospital-based Quality Improvement activities. Please consider attending.

Reminder

Please be sure to submit changes in administrative staff that have contact with DPH, to your Regional Specialist. We need this information in a timely fashion to update our records and distribution lists.

Resource for Learning More about Substance Use Disorders

Looking for resources for learning more about substance use disorders? Although this website is directed toward child welfare and legal professionals, this resource contains information that may be useful to EI staff: [Online Tutorials for Child Welfare Professionals and Legal Professionals](#). These free tutorials from The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) focus on the subjects of substance abuse and child welfare; they support and facilitate collaboration between the child welfare system, the substance abuse treatment system and the courts.

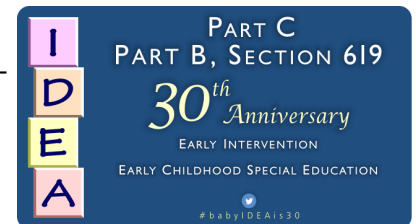
Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available upon successful completion of a tutorial. As always, please contact karengould@healthrecovery.org or karenwelling@healthrecovery.org for training or technical assistance on trauma or substance use.

MassHealth—CommonHealth

Please check out the revised tip sheet for [Coordinating Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs](#) on CommonHealth.

Happy Birthday PL 99-457!

It's the 30th Anniversary of IDEA Part B, Section 619, and IDEA Part C! During the week of October 3–7, OSEP celebrated 30 years of early intervention services and preschool special education under IDEA. During the week, the 30th Anniversary Webpage highlighted the impact of early childhood provisions in IDEA. Stories of parents, practitioners, researchers, and even individuals who received early intervention and preschool special education services as a result of this law, were shared. Don't forget to join the celebrations online—it's not too late...connect on social media using the hashtag #babyIDEAis30! And be sure to check out [Ron Benham and Tiffany Gundler's](#) contributions.



Please be sure to check out the Resources & Training links at the beginning of the EI Update!

[Specialty Services Updates](#)

Wings for Autism

Airline travel can be a challenge for any of us in today's world, but for a family with a child diagnosed with Autism, this can be a very difficult experience!

To help ease the stress of flying, Massport has teamed up with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), JetBlue and the Charles River Center (an autism support center), to launch the Wings for Autism Program. Other partners include Massachusetts State Police and the Logan airline community.

Wings for Autism is a "dress rehearsal" open house day to give these families the opportunity to experience travel through Boston Logan before their actual trip. Since 2011, Boston Logan has held 10 Wings for Autism events and more than 1000 people attended. Families were able to familiarize themselves with the airport and travel procedures and kids had a chance to practice entering the airport, getting boarding passes at the ticket counter, checking bags, being screened at the TSA security checkpoint, and boarding the aircraft.

Not only is this a benefit to the families who participate, but it also provides a valuable training opportunity for airport, airline and TSA personnel to learn how to accommodate children with special needs and increase awareness within the airport community so that children with autism – and their families – can have a positive travel experience.

Massport hosts this event twice a year with airline pilots, flight attendants, and TSA screeners who volunteer their time to give these children and their families a chance to experience flying on a plane -- and in turn have a chance to learn how to better serve them.

For additional information please e-mail wingsforautism@massport.com.

How To Get Involved

If your family is interested in participating in the next Wings for Autism event at Boston Logan, please contact the Charles River Center.* www.charlesrivercenter.org/

*Note: You do not have to be affiliated with the Charles River Center to participate and there is no cost for this program.



Guidance Document on Vision Loss: Eligibility for EI and partnering with Perkins School for the Blind

The Department of Public Health has a long-standing contract with Perkins School for the Blind to provide services to infants and toddlers in the EI system with vision loss. This contractual arrangement simplifies logistical arrangements with Perkins staff – the EIP does not need to subcontract with Perkins, bill for their services, or balance their services with EI billing regulations. Please see the attached [document](#) to learn more.

Data Manager Updates

FY 2017 Error Reports

The fiscal year 2017 Error Reports were not generated for the month of September. The first FY17 reports will be sent to EI programs at the end of this month. The following additional error types are included on report #2, IFSP CHILDREN – Missing EIIS client forms and/or problem with eligibility data:



- Notification Date problem
- Child received services after the age of 3

Next EIIS Upgrade

DPH is currently working on the next EIIS upgrade to be implemented by EI programs in January. EIIS forms will change to accommodate the new child and family eligibility criteria effective as of January 1, 2017 and will be available to EI programs in December. A webinar will take place in January for Program Directors and EIIS Data Managers to review the changes on the forms and within EIIS.

EITC Updates

CEIS Portfolio Tips



Certification for Early Intervention Specialists is a lengthy and sometimes complicated process. Here are some reminders to keep the process moving along stress-free and in a timely manner.

CEIS applications must be completed by the end of 3 years of employment for those working 20 hours or more per week at one or more MDPH-certified EI program(s). To submit on time, applicants should begin to gather materials, read the application manual, and take trainings far in advance of their due date.

Portfolios that do not adhere to the instructions outlined in the June 2016 manual will be automatically returned. Applicants are urged to thoroughly read and follow all instructions before submittal of the portfolio. Returned portfolios will take longer to process and therefore it will take longer to become fully certified. When portfolios are returned, it is necessary that corrections are made and returned to the Certification Office by the due date given to the applicant. Portfolios will not be sent to Panel Review until they are in full compliance with the manual instructions.

Applicants are encouraged to have their supervisors periodically review their portfolio before submission. Applicants also should contact the Michelle Buonasaro in the certification office to clarify instructions or to obtain a status of their portfolio: Michelle.Buonasaro@state.ma.us or 617-624-5920.

Early Intervention Certification Manual: How can I get it?

There are now two ways that EI staff can obtain the Certification (CEIS) manual for the portfolio process.

We encourage staff to use the PDF version of the manual with fillable forms that is available on the EI Training Center website at www.eitrainingcenter.org. Staff are able to fill in the forms and save them on their local system.

For staff that prefer using a paper manual, the "Certification for Early Intervention Specialists" manual is also available to order via the *Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearing House*.

Staff may order a manual by visiting the following link: massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us/EARLYI/EI4600.html.

Hard copies may be ordered for shipment to programs and/or Word files may be downloaded.

Supplies of the manual are limited. Staff currently preparing their CEIS applications, who already have a manual, should NOT order a new one but simply continue to use the one they have.

Certification for Early Intervention Directors (CEID)

The CEID pilot process is nearing completion. The final professional development offering will be a Leadership Day scheduled for November 3rd from 9:15am—4:00pm in Milford. In addition to our six pilot participants, the session will be open to those directors on both the Accelerated and the Grandfathered tracks, who would like to participate in this pilot day with us. For those in the Accelerated process, the Leadership Day is a requirement for CEID. For those in the Grandfathered track, it is an optional offering that is encouraged. Individuals who fall into one of these categories should have already received information from Sue Grossman.

CEIS Competency Indicator 8.2: Clarification

CEIS Competency 8.2 reads, “*EI Specialists will participate in opportunities for continued training and education for the purpose of ensuring personal and professional growth.*”

This competency is one that applicants demonstrate through continued professional development. In order to receive 8.2 staff must demonstrate evidence of successful completion of a professional development activity, beyond that which is required, that promotes personal and professional growth. The training must be one that is not a universal requirement of the Massachusetts Department of Public (for all staff).

The EI Training center will no longer be issuing 8.2 with Foundations of MA EI, parts I or II (when it is launched).

WIP Group: New Web-based Data System Stakeholder Group

The Full WIP group met on September 28, 2016 for an update on the project. The plan for on-going stakeholder meetings is to divide into three subgroups:

Technical Group: Monday 10/17 @ 1pm WEBINAR participation

Clinical Group: Thursday 10/20 @ 10am Milford WEBINAR or FACE-TO-FACE participation

Claims Group: Tuesday 11/1 @ 1pm WEBINAR participation

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the challenges in implementation, and to ensure that we hear from the many perspectives of future users of the systems.

Please forward to appropriate individuals in your program or agency.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Noah Feldman at noah.feldman@state.ma.us or (617) 624-5532.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

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