

The UPDATE

News and Information for MA EI providers!
October 2014



Important Dates:



Tuesday, October 10/29 @ 10am: DPH Monthly Webinar

Topic: Update on the MA State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

General DPH Announcements:

EI RFR: The Department is waiting for approval at the Executive Office of Health & Human Services. Programs will be notified as soon as the contract awards have been approved.

RCP RFR – The Department will be releasing an RFR to re-procure the Regional Consultation Programs once the EI RFR contract awards have been communicated. The DPH expects to award six RCP contracts, with one discrete program in each DPH region in the state. Applicants wishing to become RCP providers must be a Certified Early Intervention Vendor. Applicants may bid to provide services in single or multiple regions. A separate application is required for each region and applicants must demonstrate the capacity to serve the entire region for which they are bidding.

Stakeholders Group – As noted at the ICC Retreat last week the Department will be convening a Stakeholders Group to discuss the EI system growth and the impact on EI programs. Anyone interested in participating in this discussion should contact Patti Fougere at patti.fougere@state.ma.us. The meeting will be held at 250 Washington Street in Boston. Representatives from the EI community such as ICC, MEIC, Parents and regional representation will be considered.

IHR – Early Childhood Trauma Support – The Department has been collaborating with the Institute for Health & Recovery to support the development of a trauma-informed approach and build capacity within Early Intervention Programs. IHR will offer EI programs the skills and strategies’ to support children’s development of social emotional competence and resiliency. The Department will be reaching out to programs later this fall who are interested in becoming a “trauma-informed organization”; interested in training and support for staff, or to work on identifying a “Trauma Champion” within their organization. Stay tuned additional information regarding expectation/commitment will be forthcoming.

SASID Pilot -- The purpose of the Early Intervention/SASID project is to issue a state assigned student identifier (SASID) to children participating in early intervention programs with the long-term goal of

tracking and evaluating educational and developmental outcomes for these children, improving delivery of services and determining cost savings.

The Department of Public Health, the Executive Office of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education have been working collaboratively over the past year to develop the SASID Assignment Pilot project, design and develop a system for collecting and reporting consent data to DESE for SASID assignment and provide training to pilot sites.

Participation of a family in this pilot program is contingent upon parental authorization to release data to DESE that identifies the parent's child as an EI participant.

The Department of Public Health identified seven Early Intervention Programs who volunteered to participate in this pilot project. These programs represent each of the state geographical regions and are of varying size and demographic make-up. The following seven EI programs volunteered to participate in the pilot program and have provided feedback to the Department regarding the consent form, how to approach families about the SASID consent and the management and processing of consent information:

- Criterion/Wachusett
- First Steps Infant-Toddler Services for South Berkshire
- Riverside Early intervention Program\Needham
- South BayEarly intervention Program\Brockton
- South BayEarly intervention Program\Fall River
- South BayEarly intervention Program\Lowell
- South BayEarly intervention Program\Worcester

To date 677 EI children have been assigned a SASID. Approximately 50 consent forms are processed each month from the seven pilot programs for families who have received EI services for 6 or more months. The Department of Public Health is interested in expanding the SASID project to other programs with the objective that all programs participate by the end of fiscal year 2016. If your program is interested in participating in this very exciting project beginning in January then please contact Patti Fougere at (617) 624-5975 or patti.fougere@state.ma.us.

Specialty Services Update:

The M-CHAT has been revised!

The updated versions of the M-CHAT and follow-up questionnaire that health care providers administer to parents to help determine if a young child has autism has been shown to be much more accurate than earlier versions at identifying children who could benefit from further evaluation. This link will take you to more info about the results of the validation study and to copies of the revised M-CHAT in many languages.

www.mchatscreen.com/Official_M-CHAT_Website.html

The **EIP Checklist to Determine Eligibility for MassHealth Waiver Program for Children with ASD** link didn't link well in last month's update. The checklist is attached below.

This form needs to be completed for all children with ASD who are MassHealth recipients who will receive Specialty Services and maintained in the child's record.

Please contact Tracy Osbahr at tracy.osbahr@state.ma.us or 413-586-7525 if you have any questions.
Form Instructions:

1. Complete this form only for children enrolled in or referred to Specialty Services for Autism Spectrum Disorders who have **MassHealth coverage**.
2. Few children under the age of three are enrolled in the current **DDS Waiver Program** so the response to this question will typically be YES.
DDS will inform us when the new round of waiver recipients are accepted. DPH will notify you if any children in your program are in this group. If so, their SSP services cannot be billed to MassHealth but should be billed directly to DPH.
3. The diagnosis of **Autism Spectrum Disorder** is what all autism-related diagnoses are called in the DSM-5.
4. ABA approved programs do not include the Reach and Pediatric Development Center SSPs. Claims for services provided by these SSPs should be sent directly to DPH, not to MassHealth.

EIP CHECKLIST TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR MASSHEALTH WAIVER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD

Child's Name: _____

Date: _____

HAS MASSHEALTH STANDARD, MASS COMMONHEALTH, OR MASSHEALTH FAMILY ASSISTANCE	YES	NO
DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN DDS WAIVER PROGRAM	YES	NO
DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER CONFERRED BY PHYSICIAN/LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST	YES	NO
TO ENROLL IN AN APPROVED SSP PROVIDING ABA-BASED INTERVENTION (does not include Reach or Pediatric Dev. Center)	YES	NO

If **all** responses are **YES**, submit intensive ASD service claims to MassHealth.

If **any** response is **NO**, submit intensive ASD service claims to DPH.

DISPOSITION: Submit SSP claims to MassHealth _____

Submit SSP claims to DPH _____

Retain this form for auditing purposes.