



Infant & Toddler  
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To: Local System Managers  
From: Mary Ann Discenza  
Date: November 12, 2009  
Subj: Developmental Services Provided by Nurses

To address a number of questions and concerns raised recently about developmental services provided by nurses, several Part C staff members held a conference call on November 2 with local system managers from systems that use nurses as Part C service providers. Discussion during the conference call focused on how services provided by nurses are listed on the IFSP, including the challenges and benefits of listing “nursing services, including developmental services” versus “developmental services.” *Table A: Practitioner Qualifications and Responsibilities*, which appears at the end of Chapter 12 in the Practice Manual, lists the service provided by nurses as “nursing services, including developmental services.”

The input provided by local system managers during the November 2 call was shared with and considered by the full Part C staff and representatives from the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Based on the concerns raised by this group of local system managers, we agree that it would be better to list “developmental services” as the service on page 6 of the IFSP even when that service is provided by a nurse. This memo serves as notification of this change in practice, and the necessary correction will be made to the Practice Manual when it is revised at the end of the initial 6-month implementation period. Other written materials that include a reference to “nursing services, including developmental services” will be revised as well.

Prior to the November 2 conference call, the Part C Office acknowledged the concerns expressed about the difference in the reimbursement rate for nurses and educators/others who provide developmental services. We also clarified that the rates were set in collaboration with DMAS based on market wages for each type of provider and were announced in the October 16, 2008 System Transformation Update. Following the November 2 conference call, we confirmed with DMAS that when billing for developmental services provided by a nurse the provider will use billing codes G0154/G0154 U1 for services in natural environments and T1026/T1026 U1 for center-based services. Similarly, when a nurse is providing assessment, participating in IFSP meetings, team treatment activities, etc., the appropriate billing codes are T1023 U1 and T1024 U1. As indicated in Appendix G of the DMAS Early Intervention Services Manual, the certified practitioners are categorized by reimbursement category based on their discipline. The procedure codes that trigger reimbursement are based on the discipline of the practitioner

providing the service (reimbursement category) and the characteristics of the service provided (group, individual, congregate, location of service). Nurses are in Reimbursement Category 1.

It has been pointed out that the rate information on the Family Information sheet is misleading because it lists the rates by service, rather than by provider, stating that the rate for developmental services is \$110. We agree that this is misleading. Since this document was designed to explain system changes to families already in the Infant & Toddler Connection system on October 1, it has been removed from our website and local systems should discard any remaining copies.

Within the next week or so, Technical Assistance Consultants will be contacting each of the local systems that use nurses to provide developmental services in order to provide specific technical assistance related to the issues addressed in this memo.