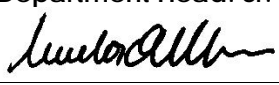
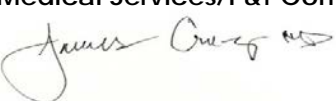


Policy Title: Early Start Program and other Linked Services		POLICY #: 10.2.10	
		Line of business: Medi-Cal	
Department Name: Utilization Management	Original Date 10/17	Effective Date 5/19	Revision Date 12/18
Department Head: Sr. Director, UM 			Date: 3/21
Medical Services/P&T Committee: (If Applicable) PHP CMO 			Date: 3/21

PURPOSE

To ensure that children who are members of Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) receive early screening and referral to the local Early Start Program and/or other linked services.

POLICY

Children who have or are at increased risk of having a chronic physical, behavioral, developmental, or emotional condition and require additional health or related services will be referred for a comprehensive assessment.

Blue Shield Promise will provide case management to ensure members have timely access to care and facilitate referrals for care coordination with other agencies such as Early Start Program, California Children’s Services (CCS), Local Education Agency (LEA), Regional Centers, Child Welfare Agencies and mental health or substance abuse providers.

Early Start Program:

Infants and toddlers from birth to age 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services through Early Start if through documented evaluation and assessment they meet one of the following:

1. Have a developmental delay of at least 33% in one or more areas- cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing.
2. Have an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in delayed development
3. Be considered at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors of which are diagnosed by qualified personnel.

Intervention services may include:

1. Assistive technology
2. Audiology
3. Family training, counseling, and home visits
4. Health services
5. Medical services for diagnostic/evaluation purposes only
6. Nursing services
7. Nutrition services
8. Occupational therapy

9. Physical therapy
10. Psychological services
11. Service coordination (case management)
12. Social work services
13. Special instruction
14. Speech and language services
15. Transportation and related costs
16. Vision services

Regional Center:

Regional Centers are a non-profit corporation that contract with the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide services for people with developmental disabilities.

Regional Centers provide overall case coordination for eligible members and their families to assure access to health, developmental, social, educational and vocational services. They also provide services to children under three who are developmentally delayed or have established risk conditions that may result in a developmental disability under the Early Start Program.

Eligibility:

1. Must manifest developmental delay prior to age 18 (shall include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism)
2. Condition is likely to continue indefinitely
3. Condition constitutes substantial handicap

Local Education Agency (LEA):

LEA provides certain medically necessary preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services to eligible members age three (3) years and older who are identified as children with special health care needs.

LEA services may include:

1. Health and mental health evaluation
2. Nutritional assessment and education
3. Development assessment
4. Vision assessment
5. Psychosocial and counseling services
6. Therapy services

A Primary Care Physician (PCP) may identify LEA eligible members through:

1. Pediatric prevention screening
2. Developmental screening
3. Case management referrals
4. Utilization management referrals
5. Parental referrals
6. Community referrals (i.e Regional Center)

PROCEDURE

1. PCPs should evaluate all children from birth through 36 months of age for actual or potential developmental delay.

2. Blue Shield Promise case managers will evaluate children from birth through 36 months of age for actual or potential developmental delay during an inpatient review, outpatient authorization request or CCS referral.
 - a. If an actual or potential developmental delay is identified by a PCP or Case Manager, a referral to the appropriate program will be made.
 - i. The Child Health Liaison at Blue Shield Promise is responsible for coordinating referrals made by Blue Shield Promise Case Managers.
 - ii. LEA agencies handle low incidence disabilities such as vision, hearing, and severe orthopedic impairments.
 - iii. Regional Centers are responsible for all other children eligible for Early Start.
3. Coordinators at LEA or Regional Center will schedule an appointment for an evaluation of the child's motor skills, communication development, learning skills, social interaction, and emotional development.
 - a. If the child is eligible for Early Start services, early intervention professionals will work with the family to develop a plan that addresses the child's needs, parents concerns, and the resources needed to support the child's development.
4. PCPs are responsible for providing all medically necessary covered diagnostic, preventive, and treatment services identified in the individual family service plan developed by the LEA or Regional Center.
 - a. PCPs are responsible for providing all other medically necessary covered services not related to the actual or potential developmental delay.
5. Blue Shield Promise Case Managers and the Child Health Liaison will continue to work with the PCP, LEA, or Regional Center to coordinate services related to or unrelated to the actual or potential developmental delay.

REFERENCES

Code of Federal Regulations Title 34, Part 300
Code of Federal Regulations Title 42
California Government Code, Section 95020
California Code of Regulations, Title 17, section 52022
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, section 51360(b), 51190.1
California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4500-4905