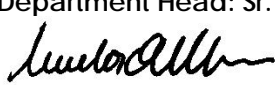
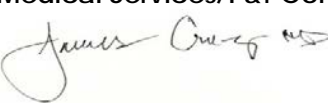


Policy Title: Early Start Program, Developmental Disability Services and other Linked Services		POLICY #: 10.2.7	
		Line of business: Medi-Cal	
Department Name: Utilization Management	Original Date 10/17	Effective Date 5/19	Revision Date 12/18, 3/22, 9/22
Department Head: Sr. Director UM 			Date: 10/22
Medical Services/P&T Committee: (If Applicable) PHP CMO 			Date: 10/22

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 (EI/ES) and Developmental Disability Services (DDS). All UM activities is performed in accordance with H&S Code sections 1363.5 and 1367.01 and 28 CCR sections 1300.70(b)(2)(H) and (c).

POLICY

Developmental Disability Services.

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 shall develop and implement procedures for the identification of Members with developmental disabilities.

Blue Shield Promise will provide case management and care coordination 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.

Blue Shield Promise will cover Medically Necessary mental health and SUD services as specified by DHCS when delivered at school sites. Blue Shield Promise will implement interventions that increase access to preventative, early intervention, and Behavioral Health services by school-affiliated Behavioral Health Providers for children in publicly funded childcare and preschool, and TK-12 children in public schools, in accordance with the interventions, goals, and metrics set forth in W&I Code section 5961.3(b).

Blue Shield Promise shall maintain a dedicated liaison to coordinate with each regional center operating within the plan's service area to assist Members with developmental disabilities in understanding and accessing services and act as a central point of contact for questions, access and care concerns, and problem resolution.

Blue Shield Promise's Primary Care Providers shall provide all screening, preventive, Medically Necessary, and therapeutic Covered Services to Members with developmental disabilities. Blue Shield Promise shall refer Members with developmental disabilities to a Regional Center for the developmentally disabled for evaluation and or access to those non-medical services provided through the Regional Centers such as but not limited to, respite, out-of-home placement, and supportive living. Blue Shield Promise shall monitor and coordinate all medical services with the Regional Center staff, which includes identification of all appropriate services, including Medically Necessary Outpatient Mental Health Services, which need to be provided to the Member.

Blue Shield understands services provided under the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs to persons with developmental disabilities are not covered under the DHCS Contract. Blue Shield Promise shall implement and maintain systems to identify Members with developmental disabilities that may meet the requirements for participation in this waiver and refer these Members to the HCBS waiver program administered by the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS). If the State DDS program concurs with the assessment of the Member and there is available placement in the waiver program, the Member will receive waiver services while enrolled in the plan. Blue Shield Promise shall continue to provide all Medically Necessary Covered 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

Early Start Program

Blue Shield Promise shall develop and implement systems to identify children who may be eligible to receive services from the Early Start program and refer them to the local Early Start program. These children would include those with a condition known to lead to developmental delay, those in whom a significant developmental delay is suspected, or whose early health history places them at risk for delay.

Blue Shield Promise shall collaborate with the local Regional Center or local Early Start program in determining the Medically Necessary diagnostic and preventive services and treatment plans for Members participating in the Early Start program.

Blue Shield Promise shall provide case management and care coordination to the Member to ensure the provision of all Medically Necessary covered diagnostic, preventive and treatment services identified in the individual family service plan developed by the Early Start program, with Primary Care Provider participation.

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

Coordinating with Other Outside Entities Responsible for Providing EPSDT Services

1. Blue Shield Promise is the primary provider of such medical services except for those services that have been expressly carved-out. Blue Shield Promise is required to provide case management and coordination of care to ensure that EPSDT members can access medically necessary EPSDT services as determined by the Promise provider. (UM Policy 10.2.3 EPSDT)

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. Local Education Agencies also 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. Service Coordinators (SC) at 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 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 Child Health Liaison or the dedicated care manager shall participate with Regional Center staff in the development of the individual developmental services plan required for all persons with developmental disabilities, which includes identification of all appropriate services, including medical care services, which need to be provided to the Member.
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.
6. **Regional Center Liaison** supports and assists Members with accessing services and acts as a central point of contact for questions, access and care concerns, and problem resolution.
7. **Information Sharing and Ongoing Monitoring**
 - a. Promise's Child Health Liaison or their delegate maintains and reviews DDS-EI/ES referral tracking reports.
 - b. To support coordination of services with the Regional Center, the Plan Liaison, or their delegate, sends an enrollment list to PCPs of all members receiving Regional Center services.
 - c. Promise conducts documented outreach to members receiving Regional Center services to inform them of the Plan's case management services, Promise generates, reconciles, and reviews referral tracking reports to ensure Plan and its delegates have accurate information on Members on Services with the Regional Center.
 - d. Promise Liaison also attends meetings with the Regional Center at a set frequency and meeting minutes clearly document coordination of care for specific cases discussed.

8. **Delegation Oversight**

Blue Shield Promise adheres to applicable contractual and regulatory requirements and accreditation standards. All delegated entities with delegated Utilization Management responsibilities will also need to comply with the same standards.

Blue Shield Promise Delegation Oversight Department is responsible for the annual oversight of the delegated network and will review the contractual requirements accordingly.

REFERENCES

DHCS GMC Contract

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

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14182(c)(10).