From Miriam Podrazik’s desk...

- The Qualified Vendor contracts have been extended for six more months until December 31, 2010. Information will go out detailing this from Business Operations soon.

- As a reminder, starting July 1st, Speech and Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA) can begin to see consumers. The Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) will bill on behalf of the SLPA (but the SLPA’s National Provider Identification (NPI) must be used). Their rate will be 75% of the SLP’s rate.

- Missed appointments can be made up at the discretion of the family and the therapist but the therapist must follow the frequency of the prescription. Therefore, the missed appointment must be made up in the same week or month, if the prescription indicates monthly. If the family and therapist feel strongly that the child has regressed and the missed appointment (s) must be made up then the family needs to get a prescription reflecting the extra hours. If the child is in the AzEIP program, the therapist must follow the frequency set forth in the IFSP.

News from the AzEIP website...

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Early Intervention Program (DES/AzEIP) will accept input on the application and proposed policies, definitions and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) from April 12, 2010 through June 11, 2010. If you are unable to access the application and policies electronically, please contact DES/AzEIP at 602-532-9960, toll free outside of Maricopa County at 888-439-5609 or by e-mail at AllAzEIP2@azdes.gov.

Persons submitting comments on any of the documents should indicate support, opposition, suggested changes, additions or deletions. Written comments may be submitted to DES/AzEIP at 3839 North Third Street, Suite 304, Phoenix, AZ 85012, or AzEIPPublicComments@azdes.gov by 4 p.m. on June 11, 2010.

Please share with staff / others who do not have access to the emailed copy. e-Therapist Bulletins are also on the web! Go to www.azdes.gov/ddd and click on News & Events. All DDD bulletins are available for viewing.
Raising Special Kids sponsored a day of free trainings in May for families of young children to learn strategies for helping their children at home. The first of a series of parent trainings funded by a grant from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the event was hosted by Phoenix Children’s Hospital, was a tremendous hit with parents.

Presenters included speech, occupational and physical therapists, a physician and a panel of experienced parents who shared their unique stories. 80 attendees learned hands on techniques that can be implemented within the home to help young children learn and develop skills. Live translation was available for Spanish speaking families and attendees had opportunities for one-on-one questions and interaction with the presenters.

One parent commented, “Thank you for a wonderful conference today!! I learned so much and got a lot of resources that I did not have before!”

The next program in this series is on August 7th featuring presentations by attorneys who practice special educa-

Raising Special Kids is planning a Spanish Practical Therapies Forum in January 2011. We are looking for bilingual therapists that would be interested in participating in this incredible opportunity to reach Spanish speaking families of children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. If you are interested in finding out more about the Forum and this opportunity, please contact Carrie Swearengen, Project Coordinator with Raising Special Kids at CarrieS@raisingspecialkids.org or 602.242.4366 ext. 219.

Authorization Reports

Lori Davidson, from DDD Business Operations, compiles authorization reports which can be a great support for you. The reports are helpful as they provide authorizations by consumer, units authorized, units paid, units remaining, etc.

To request reports from Lori, please send an email to her at LDavidson@azdes.gov and include the following:

1. Your nine digit provider ID
2. Your email address
3. Contact name and phone number
4. How often you would like the report emailed (weekly, monthly, etc.)

Quarterly Therapy Progress Notes

Therapy providers must provide current progress reports and home programs to the Division if they want service requests to be considered or reauthorized. A sample format is attached to this e-bulletin. All fields must be filled out, especially the start date of therapy.

For District I, email to: DDDD1ProviderReports@azdes.gov or 4000 N. Central, Suite 900 Phoenix, AZ 85012.

For District II, email to: DDDD2ProviderReports@azdes.gov

Emailed reports should include the Support Coordinator name and Office in the subject line. Without the subject line information, there will be a delay in the delivery of reports to the appropriate staff. Emails must be secured before sending.

If you have any questions, please call or email your local Therapy Coordinator.
Health Plan Therapy Prior Authorization Process and Eligibility

For consumers who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and are Arizona Long Term Care (ALTCS) eligible.

Health Plans pay for therapy that is rehabilitative.

♦ **Definition:** Rehabilitative therapy is for an acute need. It is designed for the consumer following surgery or after a trauma that has decreased the functioning of an individual. Surgery designed to release contractures would be considered rehabilitative.

♦ The Primary Care Physician (PCP) would make the request, to the Health Plan’s prior authorization department, on behalf of the consumer. If a consumer is hospitalized unexpectedly and is in need of therapy services, the medical facility would take care of needed authorizations or billing to the Health Plans. Therapists would contact the DDD Support Coordinator and the PCP to discuss the consumer’s needs prior to or after surgery/trauma to coordinate possible additional durable medical equipment (DME) or needed services. The PCP should send a prescription and documentation of medical necessity for DME directly to the Health Plan’s DME provider.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) pays for habilitative therapy for eligible Arizona Long Term Care (ALTCS) consumers.

♦ **Definition:** Habilitative therapy is for a chronic need as it relates to the natural progression of the consumer’s disability. It is designed to assist the consumer to acquire, retain and/or improve chronic skill deficits. Habilitative therapy assists consumers to be able to reside successfully in the community, help themselves with feeding, activities for daily living, communication, socialization, adaptive skills and overall strengthening.

♦ The need for therapy is dictated by the consumer’s Individual Support Plan and as approved by their PCP. The PCP would either fax the prescription for habilitative therapy to the consumer’s DDD Support Coordinator or would give the prescription to the family to give to the Support Coordinator.

Let us know!

Please let us know about any training that is offered in your community. We will share it with other therapists. Fax (602-364-1322) or email Miriam Podrazik (MPodrazik@azdes.gov) the details for submission in the next e-Therapist Bulletin.
Therapy Payer Source

The chart below is a means to help understand the many different ways that individuals with developmental disabilities receive therapy services. These guidelines have been written to better explain procedures for the coordination of therapy services under the Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) is a comprehensive child health program of prevention, treatment, correction and amelioration of health problems for Medicaid members under the age of 21. An individual with developmental disabilities falls under the targeted category when he/she qualifies for AHCCCS financially.

Payer Referral Source for Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Final Payer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3 (AzEIP) DDD only (non-AHCCCS) - If family has TPL and agrees to usage, provider bills TPL first. If there is no TPL, the Division is the primary payer.</td>
<td>DDD, if TPL denies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-3 AHCCCS eligible (targeted/TSC)** - If family has TPL, provider obtains a prior authorization from the health plan before billing the TPL.</td>
<td>AHCCCS Health Plan* (EPSDT) DDD if Health Plan Denies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-3 ALTCS - If family has TPL, provider bills TPL first.</td>
<td>DDD, if TPL denies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 and above-DD only (non-AHCCCS) with no TPL</td>
<td>DDD-only when funding is available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 and above-DD only (non-AHCCCS) with TPL</td>
<td>TPL only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-21 AHCCCS eligible (targeted/TSC)</td>
<td>AHCCCS Health Plan*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 and above AHCCCS eligible (rehabilitative therapies only)</td>
<td>AHCCCS Health Plan*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 and above-ALTCS - If family has TPL, provider bills TPL first. If there is no TPL, the Division is the primary payer.</td>
<td>DDD, if TPL denies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


DDD Long Term Care contracted Acute Care Plans (APIPA, MCP, Care 1st, Capstone) pay for rehabilitative therapy (therapy after surgery, etc.) for individuals who are ALTCS eligible. DDD is responsible for habilitative service payments.

**For 0-3 population covered by (EPSDT)

The team completes the IFSP and the Service Coordinator (SC) sends the “approved coversheet” and copies of the evaluation/developmental summaries completed during the IFSP process to the Maternal Child Health Coordinator (MCH) at the specific health plan. The MCH Coordinator works with the PCP to have the PCP determine whether the therapy services identified on the IFSP are medically necessary. If yes, the therapy authorization request is then sent to the health plan. If approved, the family is referred to the provider in the health plan for the authorized therapy sessions.
On the first Friday of the month you will receive a Statewide list of ALTCS-eligible individuals who are in need of therapy services. Individuals will be identified by age, district and zip code. The intent of sharing this information is to help both you and the Division coordinate the provision of therapy services. Therapists should contact the appropriate District Therapy Coordinator to initiate the therapy service referral process.

Your contact person for each district is listed below.

District I: Kathy Hornburg
Phone: 602-246-0546
Fax: 602-246-0880
KHornburg@azdes.gov

District II: Altagracia Gasque
Phone: 520-519-1711 x 1133
Fax: 520-748-8765
AGasque@azdes.gov

District III: Tobie Trejo
Phone: 928-526-0334
Fax: 928-773-8496
TTrejo@azdes.gov

District IV: Esther Panuco
Phone: 928-669-9293 x 231
Fax: 928-669-5539
EPanuco@azdes.gov

District V: Peggy K. Lopez
Phone: 520-723-2636
Fax: 520-723-2637
PeggyLopez@azdes.gov

District VI: Linda Southwell
Phone: 928-428-0474 x 1140
520-860-0044 (cell)
Fax 928-348-7725
LSouthwell@azdes.gov

Central Office/TPL Trainer
Kim Maldonado
Phone: 520-742-7679 x 130
Fax: 520-742-1045
KMaldonado@azdes.gov

Quarterly progress reports...

Quarterly progress reports are due to Support Coordinators no later than fifteen(15) days after the end of each quarter that the service is provided. There are no exceptions to this required rule.