

First Steps System Updates:

First Steps/Medicaid Collaboration: It is the goal of the Family and Social Services Administration to maximize the utilization of Medicaid funding to the First Steps system. FSSA will develop procedures to support the reimbursement of First Steps services through the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO). Through this process, the system will develop procedures that support the increased involvement of the child's primary care physician.

3/2/05: FSSA (Family and Social Services Administration), First Steps, and OMPP (Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning) continue to meet weekly with representatives from the Managed Care Organizations. The group is reviewing the current First Steps procedures to determine when and how the primary care physician and the MCO can become involved in the process. The group will continue to explore billing options for the system. At this time, no final decisions have been made by the group nor have rates been established.

In a letter dated February 7, 2005, First Steps providers were required to complete paperwork for enrollment in the Indiana's Health Care Programs (IHCP). Enrollment in IHCP is the first steps to building a system to support provider's ability to directly bill the MCOs. Due to the many questions that have been raised during the enrollment period, the deadline for phase one has been extended to March 19, 2005.

During the last two weeks, EDS and the First Steps Office have received questions relating to the completion of the enrollment forms. Specifically, there was a request to verify the requirement of board members of not for profit organizations in the disclosure of their Social Security Numbers. The following clarification was submitted by OMPP.

All entities wishing to receive reimbursement for services under the Medicaid program must abide by Medicaid policies. One of those policies concerns disclosing information about the ownership and control of the provider entity. This information, including the social security number, is used to administer the Medicaid program. Disclosure of the social security number is voluntary; however, non-disclosure will result in the provider enrollment application not being processed. The agency will not disclose social security numbers provided on enrollment applications.

Please refer to the First Steps web page under "What's New" (http://www.state.in.us/fssa/first_step/whatsnew.html) for a copy of the February 7, 2005, letter and a question and answer document specific to enrollment. You may also access a training video on the UTS web page www.UTSPROKIDS.org.

At this time, the First Steps office has not modified the current provider agreements; therefore, providers are required to continue billing the CRO for First Steps services.

Insurance: It is the goal of the program to maximize reimbursement from Private Insurance Companies.

3/2/2005: The Central Reimbursement Office (CRO) is in the process of billing a private insurance company for First Steps services that were provided from April 2003 to November 2004. These claims were submitted on behalf of families that provided consent to the State to allow access to their insurance. Billing will continue.

Eligibility: FSSA is analyzing the need of the State in tightening eligibility guidelines. FSSA has consulted clinicians, providers, and other stakeholders, while also comparing Indiana early intervention eligibility to other states. Modification of Indiana's eligibility definition would require a change in State legislation.

3/2/2005: At this time, legislation has not been introduced.

Cost Participation: FSSA is analyzing the need of the State to better enforce the collection of and increase the fees paid by families through cost participation. Modification to the cost participation fee schedule would require a change in State legislation.

3/2/2005: At this time, legislation has not been introduced.

Provider Networks: FSSA is exploring the development of provider networks across the state. If this course is pursued, providers would be required to be employees of the network or subcontract through the network. This entity would likely be responsible for billing, training, supervising, and credentialing. Entities managing the provider networks would be selected through the Request for Funds Proposal (RFP) process.

3/2/2005: FSSA is in the very beginning stages of exploring this option.

If you would like to comment on any of these projects, please feel welcome to submit your e-mail to the First Steps web at FirstStepsWeb@fssa.state.in.us.