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LYNN T. BESHEAR
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TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK
FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities
RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel17)
DATE: 8/7/20

COVID-19 Guidance for Alabama Support Coordination and Service Provider Agencies Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

Important information about Funding

July, 2020 – Providers will be reimbursed 60% of their June20 Day Service billings PLUS actual claims billing of those same services. Residential will include the 19% increase.

August, 2020 - Providers will be reimbursed 40% of their June20 Day Service billings PLUS actual claims billing of those same services. Residential will include the 19% increase.

September, 2020 - Providers will be reimbursed 30% of their Jun20 Day Service billings PLUS actual claims billing of those same services. Residential will include the 19% increase.

At this time, unless the COVID-19 situation worsens, providers with approved Infectious Disease Emergency plans may resume Facility based Day Habilitation services September 1. Please note Risk Mitigation section below.

URGENT!!! Please note change in deadline! HHS extended the deadline to apply for federal Provider Relief Funds to **August 28, 2020**. Please refer to previous guidance for attachments that provide links to the application process.

Changes to Residential IRBIs during the COVID-19 pandemic (NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS GUIDANCE)

The 19% adjustment to IRBIs will remain in effect until the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE), Appendix K end date or the end date of the enhanced FMAP, whichever comes first. Therefore, the current IRBI on file in the Regional Office will remain in effect. Exceptions may be considered when there is a change in ICAP scores, living arrangements, specialized staffing needs or other unique circumstances. Documentation should be included with requests for an IRBI change. Team meetings are still required for specialized staffing requests or may be required when there is a unique circumstance. Leaving IRBIs as they are currently calculated will allow the flexibility for individuals to receive Day services (including employment) according to the waiver participant's Individual Risk and Service Assessment as documented by the Support Coordinator. This also allows Day Service providers to offer virtual services in the residential setting without the conflict of duplicate billing.

Risk Mitigation

Providers **MUST** ensure Staff are wearing appropriate PPE and are following all other CDC guidelines to help prevent risk of exposure when providing supports as part of their Risk Mitigation strategy. Masks **MUST** always be worn during the delivery of waiver services. Please remember individuals with intellectual disabilities are reported to have a more difficult time recovering from COVID-19 infection.

Providers MUST ensure compliance with their approved Infectious Disease Emergency Plan.

PPE for individual's served may be considered Specialized Medical Supplies **for the individual**. There must be a 'justifiable need' for purchases and must include a physician's prescription.

Resources for alternative day services during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://thearc.org/resource/alternative-day-programs-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Example of how a provider is offering virtual classes:

<https://www.thearcbaltimore.org/virtualday/>

For previous DDD COVID-19 Guidance releases, visit: <https://mh.alabama.gov/covid-19-dd/>

The COVID-19 Workgroup Members represent various provider groups, associations, and advocates and are charged with reviewing information related to the impact of COVID-19 and make recommendations to the DDD. Members of the group are: Chris Stewart; Susan Ellis; Jo Poates, Arvy Dupuy; DeAnna Ferguson; Ken Oliver; Jamie Herren; Wade Reese; James Tucker; Wettingfeld, Ginger; Jackson, Mattie; Rebecca Wright; Elizabeth Hataway; Nelson, Drew; Mary Roth; Tina Shaddix; Robin Hall; Cody Ingram; Durbin, Dianne.

Please send any questions you may have relating to COVID-19, services, etc., to:

ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov

Attachment (0)