



STATE OF IOWA

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Informational Letter No. 564

January 10, 2007

To: Community Mental Health Centers
From: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
Re: Services provided to Young Children

This letter is to address issues of Medicaid coverage for services to young children. Many of these children do not meet the criteria for a DSM IV diagnosis but need assessment and may need interventions. If a service is performed and a DSM IV diagnosis is not appropriate on the claim form you may use other diagnoses and submit the claim to the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME). The IME has been informed that providers believe that the service is not covered if the child does not have a DSM IV diagnosis. The Iowa Plan managed by Magellan covers the DSM-IV diagnostic codes (290 to 309 and 311 to 314). The initial evaluation is payable for Medicaid clients if they do not have a diagnosis by coding diagnosis deferred – 799.9 on the claim.

This year there will be education offered focused on the diagnosis of young children.

“Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0–3) was the first developmentally based system for diagnosing mental health and developmental disorders in infants and toddlers. Its diagnostic categories reflected the consensus of a multidisciplinary group of experts in early childhood development and mental health. The revised DC:0-3 draws on empirical research and clinical practice that have occurred worldwide since 1994. DC: 0-3R is designed to help mental health and other professionals

- Recognize mental health and developmental challenges in young children,
- Understand how relationships and environmental factors contribute to mental health and developmental disorders,
- Use diagnostic criteria effectively for classification and intervention,
- Work more effectively with parents and other professionals to develop effective treatment plans.

DC: 0–3R enhances your ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental health problems in the earliest years by identifying and describing disorders not addressed in other classification systems and by pointing the way to effective intervention approaches.” www.zerotothree.org A crosswalk which translates the 0-3 classification to ICD 9 coding will also be provided.

The Medicaid program supports early intervention in children before their behaviors reach the levels that qualify the child for DSM IV criteria. As the need for services is identified in younger children it is important that Medicaid providers have the skills to effectively meet those needs. If you need additional information on the training please contact Kris Tiernan ?????

