VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH CARE PLAN

Medical Policy: Early Intervention Programs

Effective: 4/26/2001
Revised: 2/2008, 11/1/11, 5/1/12
Reviewed/No Updates: 1/28/13, 2/13/14, 2/12/15, 2/11/16, 2/9/17, 2/8/18, 2/14/19, 2/13/20, 2/11/21, 2/17/22, 2/2/23, 2/8/24, 2/20/25

Early Intervention Programs

An early intervention program is coordinated multidisciplinary care that involves combinations of traditional therapies such as physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, psychological counseling for families, nursing care, and physical or social stimulation for children from infancy to three years of age who have developmental delays or have a high potential for developmental delay. The duration of therapy may last for months or years depending on the deficits of the child and the needs of the family.

The Plan will provide coverage for behavioral health treatment for pervasive developmental disorder or autism. . The Plan meets all California requirements. No benefits will be provided that exceed the essential health benefits that will be required under specified federal law. Coverage for the diagnosis, early intervention, and treatment of autism will apply to members of all ages.

NOTE: According to the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments, federal legislation requires that each child recognized as having a disability that interferes with learning from infancy to age 3 have a written plan of service, an ~~IFSP, (~~Individual Family Service Plan~~)~~ (IFSP)~~. An IFSP~~ ,which includes specific early intervention services that the family and child will receive and a projection of their duration. The law requires each state to create its own definition of developmental delay as a basis for determining eligibility of services. Services are provided not only for children with developmental delays, but also for those with biological conditions that may predispose to a delay. Additionally, states may provide services to children who may be at risk of developing developmental delays attributable to environmental factors. All states have established early intervention programs for children from birth to 3 years.

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Procedures

Prior authorization through a treatment authorization request (TAR) to VCHCP UR is required.

Attachments: None

History:

Reviewer/Author: Richard O. Ashby MD, QA Committee; Date: April 2001
Reviewed/No Updates: Sheldon Haas MD; Date: 01/28/08
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Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
2/9/17	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/14/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
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2/2/23	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/8/24	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/20/25	Yes	Howard Taekman, MD and Robert Sterling, MD	Formatting changes. Removed “VCHCP does not generally cover early intervention programs for the treatment of actual or potential developmental delay because, according to general plan exclusion language, we do not cover "those related services, treatment, education, testing or training related to learning disability or developmental delays." Please note that this exclusion will not apply to autism or autistic spectrum disorder between the dates of 7/1/12- 7/1/14.”