



# DCS Comprehensive Health Plan INTERNAL POLICY

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| <b>TITLE</b><br>Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Referrals and Services  | <b>POLICY NUMBER</b><br>HS-CH-01    |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE AREA</b><br>Health Coordination   | <b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b><br>08/31/2023 |
| <b>Initiated:</b> 04/24/13<br><b>CHP Policy Committee Approval:</b> 06/07/13; 06/05/14; 06/19/15; 10/13/15; 11/03/16; 03/16/17; 11/15/18; 06/20/19; 09/14/20; 08/15/21; 08/15/22; 08/15/23 |                                     |

## STATEMENT/PURPOSE

The Department of Child Safety Comprehensive Health Plan (DCS CHP) coordinates with the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) to facilitate the provision of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and medically necessary early intervention services for members under three years of age.

## AUTHORITY

[A.R.S. § 8-512](#), Comprehensive medical and dental care; guidelines.

[P.L 04-235](#), Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

[CFR 42 438.210](#), Coverage and authorization of services.

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) for CHP outlines the contractual requirements for compliance with continuity and quality of care coordination for all members.

The contract between the Department of Child Safety (DCS) for the Comprehensive Health Plan (CHP) and its Managed Care Organization (MCO) contractor outlines the contractual requirements for compliance with quality and appropriateness of care/services.

## DEFINITIONS

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP): Arizona’s statewide, interagency system of early intervention services for families of children, birth to three, with disabilities or developmental delays, and governed by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): a comprehensive child health program of prevention, treatment, correction, and improvement (amelioration) of physical and behavioral/mental



health conditions for Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) members under 21 years of age.

Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP): A written plan for providing early intervention services to an infant or toddler with a disability and the child's family that (a) is based on the evaluation and assessment; (b) includes parental consent; (c) is implemented as soon as possible once parent consents for early intervention services in the IFSP is obtained; and (d) is developed in accordance with IDEA Part C.

## **POLICY**

DCS CHP coordinates with AzeIP to implement EPSDT and early intervention services and referrals for DCS CHP enrolled children. Services include medically necessary physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy and care coordination. Services are coordinated within the framework of Medical Management (MM) and EPSDT activities and within timelines set by AHCCCS and AzeIP.

DCS CHP in conjunction with its MCO contractor is responsible for:

- Educating providers about the AzeIP procedures when the need for medically necessary services are identified for members birth to 3 years of age;
- Ensuring medically necessary services are initiated within 45 days of a completed Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) when services are requested by the AzeIP service coordinator;
- Coordinating services with AzeIP until the services are determined by the PCP or AzeIP service provider to no longer be medically necessary;
- Reimbursing all AHCCCS AzeIP providers whether or not they are contracted with Mercy Care.

DCS CHP does not require authorization for AzeIP therapy evaluations or re-evaluations.

Requests from Primary Care Providers (PCPs) for AzeIP services are reviewed for medical necessity via the prior authorization or retro authorization process, to determine authorization and reimbursement. The prior authorization process is implemented to issue notices when services are denied suspended or reduced. Approval for services may be pended, until an evaluation has been completed by the provider and services may be denied if the PCP determines there is no medical need for services based on the results of the evaluation.

DCS CHP supports in-home AzeIP therapy services.

## **PROCEDURE**

DCS CHP in conjunction with the MCO contractor coordinates with and educates AzeIP service coordinators, PCPs, service providers, and Department of Child Safety Specialists (DCSS) to process medically necessary EPSDT services including:

- AzeIP AHCCCS Member Service Request Forms;
- Evaluation reports, reevaluation documentation and developmental summaries;



- Any supporting documentation for services requested;
- Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs), if applicable;
- AzEIP service visits with the custodial guardian or caregiver as necessary or as requested; and
- PCP visits if needed.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

DCS CHP monitors AzEIP therapy and services and reports trends to the quarterly MM Committee.

### **REFERENCES**

[AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual \(AMPM\) 430, EPSDT Services](#)

[AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual \(AMPM\) 430, Attachment A, AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule](#)

[AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual \(AMPM\) 430, Attachment C, Procedures for the Coordination of Services under EPSDT and Early Intervention](#)

[AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual \(AMPM\) 431, Attachment A, AHCCCS Dental Periodicity Schedule](#)

[DCS Program Policy, Chapter 3, Section 8.2, Arizona Early Intervention Program](#)

[Mercy Care Desktop Procedure, 8300.10, Referrals from the AzEIP Service Coordinators](#)

### **RELATED FORMS**

[AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual \(AMPM\), Chapter 400, Policy 430, Attachment D, AzEIP AHCCCS Member Service Request](#)