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Department of Health Care Services
Children's Medical Services Network
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #299

Authorization of Diagnostic Evaluations for Hearing Loss

This is a reminder as to the CCS program policy for authorization of diagnostic services for children suspected of hearing loss.

When a child presents with a condition eligible to receive diagnostic services, as per Title 22, Section 41839, California Children's Services (CCS) shall authorize diagnostic services to an age-appropriate Communication Disorder Center (CDC). An authorization for a diagnostic hearing evaluation shall be issued to a CCS-approved CDC and shall be for 90 days. For diagnostic authorizations originating from referrals through the Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP) see Numbered Letter (N.L.) 06-1008. The authorization shall be for Service Code Grouping (SCG) 04 which will cover all diagnostic testing and evaluation procedures. Additionally, a separate authorization to a CCS approved ENT for SCG 01 should be so that these diagnostic and evaluation procedures can be done concurrent with the diagnostic evaluation. Infants referred through the NHSP who have unilateral or bilateral atresia of the external ear canal and/or microtia of the pinna are also eligible for diagnostic services, both audiology and ENT, without the need to have completed completing inpatient or outpatient hearing screening.

Once a child has been identified with a hearing loss and the type and degree determined and CCS program eligibility established, CCS shall then authorize SCG 04 for treatment services through the program eligibility date. The treatment authorization shall be renewed annually, pending program eligibility. Additionally, SCG 01 shall be issued to the CCS approved ENT for the determination of hearing loss etiology and medical clearance of hearing aids, if indicated, and also an authorization issued to the ophthalmologist for vision assessment. Authorization for amplification devices should not be delayed if the ophthalmologic examination has not been completed, and should be authorized separately according to N. Ls.12-0605 and 11-0807.

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