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Informational Notice

Date: May 18, 2015

To: Early Intervention Providers and Administrative Contracts

Re: New Provider Enrollment System for the Illinois Medical Assistance Program
Illinois Medicaid Program Advanced Cloud Technology (IMPACT)

The purpose of this Informational Notice is to inform you that the Department of Healthcare & Family Services (HFS) is launching a new provider process and computer system as a direct result of the Patient Protection and [Affordable Care Act](#). This announcement is to provide some initial, high-level information of how this change will impact Early Intervention in the coming weeks.

This new IMPACT system will be an on-line system used by any provider serving Illinois Medicaid-eligible citizens. It is intended to confirm compliance with HFS requirements for providers who either are paid directly by HFS or, like Early Intervention providers, are paid initially by Early Intervention, who then submits claims for reimbursement from HFS for Early Intervention children who are eligible for federally matching funds.

If you are an Early Intervention Provider who serves dual populations of both Early Intervention and other Illinois Medicaid-eligible citizens, this message may duplicate some information being shared by HFS for you. Please be assured that both Early Intervention and HFS systems will be working together to minimize any confusion this may cause. By providing communications as well as more intense and detailed information in the near future, we hope to keep everyone moving through the system properly so you can continue serving Illinois children as you currently do.

The new IMPACT system will provide a more convenient, streamlined, user-friendly experience. IMPACT will create a web portal for providers to submit and update their HFS enrollment information as needed. Once IMPACT is fully implemented the wait time for an Early Intervention application approval should decrease significantly.

All Early Intervention Payee agencies and Payee individuals who currently are enrolled, or are seeking to enroll as Early Intervention Providers will be impacted, but at various stages of the implementation. Historically, the process of enrollment for Early Intervention Providers with HFS was the bulk of the paperwork within the Early Intervention Credentialing/Enrollment packet. Once this process is on-line within IMPACT, the process of paperwork should be drastically reduced.

Phase I implementation of IMPACT will start by classifying Early Intervention Providers into two categories of typical and atypical. Early Intervention has always enrolled typical providers in HFS as part of the Early Intervention application process. This is the mechanism we use for maximizing funding for Early Intervention in order to receive federal Medicaid reimbursement. The typical providers affected by Phase I are:

- Assistive Technology
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Developmental Therapists
- Developmental Therapist Vision
- Developmental Therapist Hearing
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist
- Licensed Social Worker
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists

- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- Licensed Clinical Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Physicians
- Registered Nurse
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Transportation

Phase I is to ensure all Early Intervention Providers currently enrolled in HFS are granted access to IMPACT when it launches later in July 2015. Access will allow all typical providers to review and update their current information through the IMPACT system. More information regarding the specifics of the revalidation process will be forthcoming. It is anticipated that the revalidation process for currently-enrolled providers will occur over a five-month period beginning sometime in late July, 2015.

IMPORTANT DATES TO CONSIDER:

For Phase I implementation, Early Intervention will be updating the Provider Enrollment/Credentialing packets on the Early Intervention Provider Connections website as quickly as possible. Additionally, a very important date to know is that effective May 29, 2015 HFS will no longer accept paper applications. Because of the IMPACT deadline on HFS for conversion of currently enrolled typical providers, Early Intervention Provider Connections will no longer accept the HFS portion of the Provider Enrollment/Credentialing packet effective May 29, 2015. All new applications for typical providers received after that date will be handled through a slightly different process to comply with IMPACT. Early Intervention understands the effect this has on new providers wanting to enter Early Intervention. We will continue to work with HFS and IMPACT on processing the portions of the application appropriately but will have to work with the individual providers who submit an application past the deadline to be ready for the final part of enrollment once IMPACT goes live in late July 2015.

Atypical providers (those not listed above) will not be affected at this time but will need to stay up-to-date as Phase II begins in 2016. Phase II plans on enrolling all providers into the IMPACT system. This is in compliance with the process to eventually move to Phase III which affects billing and payment delivery.

Additional information will be available at www.IMPACTInfo.illinois.gov regarding timelines and specific provider requirements from the perspective of providers who directly enroll/bill HFS. Our goal is to keep you informed of the needs to maintain your current status within the Early Intervention system.

We appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we begin this new chapter of the partnership between Early Intervention and HFS.