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DATE: November 23, 2008
TO: All ABD Medicaid Policy Manual Holders
FROM: Nancy Clark, ABD Medicaid Policy Specialist
Public Assistance Bureau, Central Office
SUBJECT: Bulletin MA 93

Place this bulletin at the end of Section 1000 of the ABD MA manual.

SUBJECT: Children's Autism Waiver

REFERENCE: ARM 37.82.101

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2008 (tentative)

INTRODUCTION: The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) is seeking federal approval for a new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver serving children diagnosed with autism who are at least 15 months of age through age four when enrolled into the waiver. Enrollment will be limited to a maximum three-year period.

This waiver will initially serve approximately 55 children. Some of these children may already be Medicaid recipients.

The eligibility policies for this Children's Autism waiver will be based on the same policies as the other DD waivers ("WO"). **Waiver of deeming rules WILL apply to this waiver group.**

POLICY: In order for a child to qualify for the Children's Autism waiver, the child must:

1. Be determined disabled according to SSA criteria (either through SSA or MEDS), and
2. Financially and non-financially eligible for Medicaid through the waiver program, and
3. Have a Children's Autism waiver slot available to him/her.

The process for enrollment into the Children's Autism waiver will be through the DD Program, in the same manner as the other DD waivers.

Documentation of Children's Autism waiver enrollment and dates of enrollment will be communicated to the OPA via the SLTC/DD-55 form.

No pre-admission screening form SLTC-61 will be received for these enrollees.

**TEAMS
PROCESSING**

A Children's Autism waiver recipient will be entered on TEAMS using the "WO" subtype, or in some instances the SD subtype. Only the child's income and resources will be counted when determining Medicaid eligibility for the waiver. The child's waiver span will be added to the WACI screen using the WAIVER CODE "WO". This is the same waiver code used for the other two DDP waivers.

Reminder: All waiver enrollees must be independently determined eligible for a waiver level of coverage. Even though SSI recipients are automatically eligible for the standard Medicaid package, asset transfers must be evaluated before waiver eligibility can be authorized. In the case of the Children's Autism waiver, spousal impoverishment policies are unlikely to apply since no one over the age of eight will be enrolled at any time.

If you have questions, please contact your regional policy specialist. Thank you!