

NOTICE: THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT UPDATES AND ATTACHMENTS THAT ARE NEEDED FOR THERAPISTS TO DO THEIR JOBS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE "THERAPIST UPDATES" AND ATTACHMENTS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL OTs, PTs, SLPs, AND CMs IN YOUR AGENCY ASAP!

The New DD Waiver Standards have been published and are effective on 3/1/18! (Download the new DD Waiver Standards from the DDS Website. Website information is near the end of this newsletter.)

- DDS training on the new standards occurred (or will occur) during webinars on 2/6/18 and 2/20/18. These webinars are an overview of the standards changes for all provider areas. If you receive this newsletter before the 2/20 training, you may register for the 9 AM training using this link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xpGvLMQ0QAGdKifUpMMSXg Information on accessing the recorded DDS Standards Webinar will be available soon.
- The CSB will complete a focused training on Therapy Services Updates via webinar soon. Information on the date for this important upcoming webinar will be distributed soon. We apologize in advance for the delay in presenting this information.

IN THE MEANTIME . . .

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW - "In A Nutshell"

- **Therapists must use the New Therapy Documentation Form!**
Beginning March 1st, therapists will be required to utilize the new Therapy Documentation Form (TDF) dated 2/15/18 for all new allocations, initial therapy requests, and annual ongoing therapy requests. Earlier TDF versions will be accepted **ONLY** when applying for a therapy budget revision that is based on an earlier TDF version that was submitted before 3/1/18. The new TDF dated 2/15/18 is attached. Make sure to download this form and share it with others and all who may need it in your agency. Instructions are on the TDF and it is pretty self-explanatory. More detailed instructions will be available soon. If you have questions before the Therapy Services Update Webinar is available or at any time, please feel free to contact the CSB Clinical Consultant for your discipline.
 - **What are the main changes on the new TDF?**
 - Therapists will be indicating how many therapy units they are requesting for the budget year right on the TDF! This applies to JCMs and Non-JCMs.
 - Therapists will continue to indicate a baseline for all measurable therapy objectives.
 - Specialized/Focused/Targeted Evaluations are added as deliverables when needed in conjunction with ongoing therapy services.
 - Initial therapy services will be identified by type and corresponding prior authorized amount of units for that service on the TDF.

➤ **The TSPAR will no longer be used!**

Beginning March 1st therapists will no longer need to submit the TSPAR! Because the new TDF includes the therapist’s request for units, the TSPAR is no longer required! YIPPEE!

➤ **There will no longer be a separate Therapy Evaluation Unit!**

For budget requests submitted on March 1st and after, when the IDT requests a NEW Therapy Service, the CM will enter units on the budget worksheet that include evaluation, TIP development and treatment units, as applicable. This will eliminate the delay between the submission of the evaluation and beginning treatment. The amount of units/hours CMs put on the budget will be as noted below:

- New Allocation or Initial Therapy Services – 45 therapy hours
- Initial CARMP Only Services – 45 hours
- Specialized/Focused/Targeted Evaluation (not associated with ongoing therapy services) – 45 hours
- Therapy Budget Requests are then adjusted, if needed, after the Initial Therapy Evaluation or the Specialized/Focused/Targeted Evaluation, based upon the units used for the evaluation plus the therapist’s request for units to implement the TIP on the Initial TDF. The Initial CARMP budget is adjusted based upon the therapist’s specific request. Remember that the TDF now includes a place to state the “Therapist Request for Units”.

New Trainings Required for Therapists

➤ In addition to Participatory Approach/Standards, Aspiration Risk Management, and Person-Centered Planning for Therapists trainings that must be completed in the first year of providing DD Waiver therapy services, therapists will need to complete the following trainings according to specific timelines.

Course	Type of Training	Timeline	
		Hired before 3/1/18	Hired after 3/1/18
“Indications of Illness and Injury”	On-line	One year	Within 90-days & before working alone with individual
“Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation”	Year 1 → classroom After year 1 : Annually → on-line	One year	Within 30-days & before working alone with individual
“Effective Individual Specific Training”	Classroom	One year	One year

Addressing the Rumor Mill ... or “Don’t Believe Everything You Hear”

➤ “I’ve heard from reliable sources that there will be new ‘Caps’ for Therapy Services and they sound pretty low! Should I be worried?”

- No! Currently, ALL requests for therapy services must receive a clinical review from the OR. The proposal is that therapy service requests as noted below will not need to go through routine or yearly clinical review from the OR.
 - New Allocation and Initial Therapy Services Requests –45 hours or less
 - Ongoing Therapy Services Requests –35 hours or less
 - Specialized/Focused/Targeted Evaluation (not associated with ongoing therapy services) – 45 hours or less
- A rotating schedule for annual submissions to the OR will be implemented for OR clinical reviews. Therapy requests for an increase in units over the review year and units that exceed the soft caps are also required.
- Therapists can continue to request whatever number of therapy units/hours they feel can be well justified to implement the Therapy Intervention Plan. Therapy budgets that are submitted to the OR for clinical review will need to be submitted with the TDF (and any other documentation that the therapist elects to submit to help justify the therapy budget request). The TDF does still contain “suggested units” for various therapy services and “deliverables.”
- The hope from DDSD administration is that fewer therapy budgets will need to go through the OR.
- More information on timelines and OR procedures are being released by DDSD.

What about Jackson Class Members?

- Jackson Class Members also transition to the new 2018 DD Waiver Standards on 3/1/18 and need to use the TDF dated 2/15/18. There are some differences for JCMs to be aware of:
 - DDSD will issue a crosswalk document that will outline 2007 to 2018 codes/services.
 - JCM will continue to utilize the General AT Fund (not the budget-based AT Fund).
 - Beginning 3/1/18, the Semi-Annual Therapy Report for JCMs is non-billable!
 - DDSD will issue further instructions on transition for JCMs to the 2018 DD Waiver Standards. Stay Tuned...

Training Opportunities

- *Aspiration Risk Management (ARM) and Participatory Approach (PA)/ Standards*

These are required trainings within the first year of service for all therapy providers in the DD Waiver and are geared toward therapists who are new to providing services through the NM DD Waiver or for therapists who would like a “refresher” on these topics. PA/Standards Trainings will address the New DD Waiver Standards and associated updates to therapy documentation and therapy services processes. Changes due to issues with training venues or very low registration numbers are possible. Please register at least 2 weeks in advance especially for Metro trainings which tend to fill up fast.

Upcoming PA/Standards and ARM trainings

Location	Training	Date
Las Cruces	PA/Standards	Thursday, March 8, 2018
Las Cruces	ARM	Friday, March 9, 2018
Albuquerque – Metro	PA/Standards	Friday, March 23, 2018
Santa Fe	PA/Standards	Thursday, May 10, 2018
Santa Fe	ARM	Friday, May 11, 2018

Pre - Registration is required for these trainings! You may register at the trainnewmexico site below. Make sure to follow all registration directions. If the training is not listed on the site, you may need to wait until a time closer to the date of training to register. **Note:** You may also register for **“Effective Individual Specific Training Techniques** at this site → <http://trainnewmexico.com>

Please contact Kincie Byrd with specific questions related to ARM and PA training opportunities.
Kincie.Byrd@state.nm.us

- This is the link to the on-line training – **“Person Centered Planning for Therapists”**. This training is required within 1 year of beginning as a DD Waiver Therapist.
<https://www.cdd.unm.edu/dhpd/programs/PlanTherapists.html>

DDSD/CSB Websites and Contacts

- The new DDSD Website is up and running! You may access the new website at the following web address: <https://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/pgsv/ddw/>
 - On the right column select “Developmental Disabilities Waiver” then select “Publications”. The 2018 DD Waiver Standards can be found as well as a large variety of other DDSD publications and resources.
 - To find Therapy Services resources and publications please explore the following link trail: Select “Developmental Disabilities Waiver” → “Services and Supports” → “Professional and Clinical Services” → “Clinical Services” → “Therapy Services”, etc.
 - We are aware that there are still many issues with finding resources on the new DDSD Website and with forms that are no longer usable/ fillable. Please contact your clinical consultant if you need resources that you can’t find on-line. We can point you in the right direction or send the resource directly to you.

Contacts for the clinical consultant representing your discipline:

- Mary Beth Schubauer, Physical Therapy MaryBeth.Schubauer@state.nm.us
- Julie Mehrl, Occupational Therapy Julie.Mehrl@state.nm.us
- Lourie Pohl, Speech-Language Pathology Lourie.Pohl@state.nm.us
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