

Recommendations from the Eligible Population Task Force

Activity A. Establish membership of the Task Force

Please refer to www.earlyonredesign.com, on the PRESENTATIONS page. See presentation #7, Early On Redesign, 11/18/05 -- Step 2 Participants

Activity B. Estimate prevalence rates

A comprehensive report containing detailed explanation of the process, results, and recommendations from Michigan’s Prevalence study is being prepared at this time. The report will be posted at a future date for full review and comment.

Activity C. Clarify current eligibility criteria

*Documents to review: Established Conditions document
Informed Clinical Opinion for Early On*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt the revised and updated Established Conditions document.
- Adopt the following criteria for children eligible for *Early On* due to developmental delay:

Age	Percent delay	Methodology
Up to 2 months old*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed Clinical Opinion • Must re-determine eligibility at or before 6 month IFSP review using a recommended Developmental Evaluation Tool
2-36 months old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% delay in 1 area of development (<i>or equivalent Standard Deviation delay score</i>) • 20% delay in 2 or more areas of development (<i>or equivalent Standard Deviation delay score</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Evaluation Tool (primary) • Informed Clinical Opinion (secondary)

**Corrected age*

- Adopt the proposed document on Informed Clinical Opinion for *Early On* to compliment the recommendations regarding tools.
- Clarify how long to correct for prematurity when doing developmental evaluations.
- During the first year of implementation of new eligibility criteria, monitor Child Find/enrollment data to understand the impact of the change.
- Consider setting up a ‘tracking’ system for children who do not qualify under the new eligibility definitions.

Activity D. Review current eligibility determination process

*Documents to review: Eligibility Determination Process Chart
Recommended Tools Chart*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt the revised Eligibility Determination Process and its components as described in the Eligibility Determination Process chart.
- Adopted eligibility re-determination procedures as described in the Eligibility Determination Process chart.
- Adopt the list of tools reviewed and recommended by the Tools Workgroup.
- Review the list of recommended Child Outcomes measurement tools again once *Early On* decides how the system will be measuring child outcomes. This current list only reflects which tools we believe will capture incremental progress across all domains of development (the minimum that would be needed to respond to SPP requirements).
- For tools recommended for eligibility determination, develop training & guidance materials to help local service area personnel to know how to reliably and consistently calculate % delay or SD delay scores/information.
- Prior to implementation of these recommendations, reexamine the recommended eligibility determination tools to understand whether they can successfully differentiate slight differences in % delay, like 20% vs. 25% (which has been proposed for eligibility criteria).
- Clearly identify the characteristics of “existing documentation” that may be used to determine eligibility based on developmental delay as this may be a point of confusion for the field given that they are receiving a list of approved tools (e.g. documentation must yield a % delay score or SD delay score; must be appropriate for ages 0-3; and any other requirements related to validity or reliability of acceptable documentation).
- Define the minimal personnel requirements (prerequisites) to be able to use any of the recommended tools (for eligibility, IFSP development, or child outcomes) – e.g. training in child development, interviewing skills, etc.
- Connect the *Early On* CAPTA workgroup with the children’s mental health committee that is identifying eligibility tools for children’s mental health to share information and research. This may prove useful related to Informed Clinical Opinion methodology for *Early On*.

Broad Recommendations across Activities A-D

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use the Eligible Population Task Force work to help describe and inform other decisions related to *Early On* Redesign. Include some participants from the Fiscal Task Force and the Eligible Population Task Force to be a part of the review and synthesis of the work of each group in order to inform any policy recommendations.
- Link the results of the Eligible Population Task Force with the larger early childhood system efforts. Define who should be served by *Early On* and who should be served by the rest of the early childhood system.
- The results of the Eligible Population Task Force should be reported to the Children’s Cabinet and the ECIC. It would help show that the state needs to make a case for this population.