

Child Health Notes



Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by Public Health-Seattle & King County-Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. This newsletter provides physicians, nurse practitioners, primary health care providers, public health centers and community partners with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability.

SSI Benefits for Infants and Children with a Disability

Children with physical or mental disabilities in your practice may qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. SSI is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSI provides monthly payments for infants and children who are “disabled”, based on **disability and family income**. SSI is available to US citizens and to immigrants with a variety of types of status.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- **Children** (<18 y.o.) with a physical or mental condition(s) which
 - * Has been medically determined
 - * Results in marked limitations in 2 domains of functioning or extreme limitation in one domain
 - * Lasts/is expected to last more than 12 months or is expected to result in death
 - **Low birthweight (LBW) infants** are considered “disabled” for their first year if
 - * Birth weight was <1200 grams
 - * **OR** birth weight was between 1200-2000 g. **and** > 2 standard deviations below the mean for gestational age
- And** whose family's income is *under 200% of the federal poverty level*

WHAT ARE THE SSI BENEFITS?

- **Monthly payments** as little as \$1/month up to \$623/month in 2007 (\$637/month in 2008), depending on parental income, financial assets and number of children in the family
- Eligibility for open coupon **Medicaid coverage** (able to choose any provider who accepts Medicaid.)
- If the child is determined to be eligible, payments begin from the date of application
- **Referral to DSHS** which can
 - * Determine eligibility for *food stamps*
 - * Determine eligibility for Medicaid coverage, even if family has other health insurance.
 - * Determine eligibility for a *personal care provider* after the age at which a child is expected to be independent. (This differs from respite care.) Medicaid may pay someone (other than the parents), who is hired by the family, to help with daily living tasks such as feeding a child >3 y.o. who cannot feed him/herself.





HOW DO FAMILIES APPLY FOR THE SSI PROGRAM?

- Families can apply themselves OR a case manager can help them.
- Families can call SSA from 7 am to 7 pm (M-F) to request an application or to ask questions. **1-800-772-1213** - English or Spanish (**1-800-325-0778** for TTY).
 - ★ Families who do not speak English or Spanish should press “0” when they get the menu, identify their native language and ask for an interpreter.
 - ★ Families will be asked for the **child’s social security number**, which can be obtained at any time after birth.

HOW OFTEN MUST DISABILITY BE PROVEN?

SSI requires documentation and review to assure that the child continues to meet eligibility requirements. The child’s status is reviewed:

- Not later than 12 months after birth for low birthweight infants
- Every 3 years for SSI recipients <18 years whose conditions are *likely to improve* (recipients under 18 years whose conditions are *not likely to improve* are reviewed only on an “as needed” basis.)
- At 18 years of age to determine eligibility for **adult** SSI benefits (based on adolescent’s income, no longer the parent’s income. A child who was not eligible before 18 years because of parental income may become eligible after 18.)



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PCP?

- **Recommend and facilitate SSI application** if the child seems likely to be eligible **based on disability** (let SSA determine eligibility relative to income/resources)
- **Provide clear documentation of disability, functional deficits and prognosis** on SSA forms. (If the records are not thorough enough, a special examination of the child by a Disability Determination team may be required.)
- **Connect the family** to a resource person for help with the application process if needed.
- **Provide updated proof** of disability when requested by SSA.

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

<p>★ Local:</p>	<p>Children with Special Health Care Needs Program <i>(Public Health Nurse consultation services for children birth to 18)</i></p> <p>Community Health Access Program (CHAP) <i>(Lead Family Resources Coordinator for children under 3 with developmental delays)</i></p> <p>Parent to Parent Support Program <i>(through the Arc of King County)</i></p>	<p>206-296-4610 www.kingcounty.gov/health/cshcn</p> <p>206-284-0331 www.whf.org/programs/FamilyResources.aspx</p> <p>206-364-4645 ext. 7042 www.arcofkingcounty.org/programs/p2p/index.html</p>
<p>★ National & Internet Resources:</p>	<p>Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213 - English or Spanish (1-800-325-0778 for TTY)</p> <p>Benefits for Disabled Children website: www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html</p> <p>Pediatric Consultative Examination Report Content Guidelines: www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/greenbook/ce-pediatric.htm</p>	



Electronic version and copies are available by calling the CSHCN Program at 206-296-4610. Suggestions and comments are welcome.

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