**CDS Part B/619 Contracted Provider Q & A: June 1, 2020**

**Is there an update on in-person evaluations and services?**

Although updated guidance was anticipated in time for this meeting, a final determination has not been made on the resumption of in-person evaluations and services. CDS and MDOE continue to have conversations with the CDC, the Office of MaineCare Services, and Governor Mills’ office to determine the best way in which to proceed.

Obviously, this is a complicated issue with no one resolution that will be to everyone’s satisfaction. Although in-person medical services are permitted to resume and Head Starts and childcares are reopening, MDOE’s stance remains the same: in-person education services are not endorsed nor will CDS reimburse for in-person education services.

**Are virtual evaluations permitted?**

Providers are encouraged to complete the portions of an evaluation that are appropriate for virtual administration and that will result in valid and reliable results. In some cases, an entire evaluation may be completed while, in others, it may only be possible to complete portions.

Providers are also encouraged to assess, in collaboration with the regional CDS site and the student’s IEP team, the appropriateness of the virtual administration of an evaluation on a child-by-child and tool-by-tool basis. Although professional judgement may be used in the absence of standard scores, the IEP team must adhere to the criteria necessary for eligibility: the presence of a disability, an adverse effect on the child’s educational performance, and the need for special education services.

**Is there guidance available with regard to make-up sessions for the brief hiatus in services in March resulting from the transition to tele-education?**

We anticipate that guidance will be available very soon.

**Can in-person MaineCare School-Based-Services be provided?**

Providers should contact MaineCare to receive clarification on the provision/reimbursement of MaineCare School-Based Services.

**Can audiologists repair/adjust hearing aids using a ‘curbside’ protocol?**

Yes, audiologists may repair, adjusts, or replace batteries for hearing aids if they use a ‘curbside’ protocol in which children and families wait in the car while the repairs, etc. occur.

**Are there any updates on funding for special purpose preschools and other contracted providers to remediate the fiscal impact that COVID-19 has had on their financial status?**

Conversations continue to occur on this topic. Unfortunately, no new information is available. Many of the federal funds that have been made available have significant restrictions on how they can be expended. Also, there are a multitude of competing priorities for the limited state funds that may be available. As mentioned in previous meetings, the vulnerability of system capacity is a concern of both MDOE and MaineCare.

**Will CDS be providing or funding the purchase of PPE?**

MDOE is looking into what opportunities are available to support the acquisition of PPE by contracted providers.

**Given that remote services may continue into th near and middle future, will CDS be providing technology to access services to those families who currently do not have the technology?**

MDOE is looking into options to support access to services that families may not have due to lack of technology.