



**child  
development  
services**

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Information Letter: Number 7

DATE: May 26, 2011

TO: CDS Regional Site Directors, CDS Governing Boards of Directors, Contracted Providers of Services

FROM: James Rier, Deputy Commissioner  
David N. Stockford, Team Leader and Policy Director, Special Services  
Debra Hannigan, Director of Child Development Services

RE: Clarification of Rates for Contracted Services for Specially Designed Instruction Beginning July 1, 2011

There seems to have been some confusion about the intention of the rate structure changes for specially designed instruction. Commissioner Gendron agreed for FY 2011 to temporarily keep the rates for specially designed instruction for providers in the CDS System at the Medicaid rates which were part of the Section 27 Early Intervention Services Policy in the Maine Care manual. These rates were to be implemented through June 30, 2011.

As the Department of Education has reviewed the financial framework, including the revenues and expenditures of the CDS System, Department of Education and CDS State IEU staff have considered reducing the rates for specially designed instruction by 10%. This would be a small reduction in the rates, which has been discussed with the regional CDS site directors, who have reviewed this possible change in rates with a sample of contracted providers.

There appears to be confusion in the provider community that this possible rate reduction would be a 50% reduction of the current rates that had been the Section 27 rates for developmental therapy, which is not the case.

The Department of Education has been evaluating all the revenue and expenditures of the CDS System, including the implications of the changes in the policies within the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Maine Care. Funds have been requested in the Supplemental and Biennial Budgets to address the fiscal needs of the CDS System in meeting the obligations to serve young children under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]. As the fiscal evaluation of the system has occurred staff have examined and implemented efficiencies, such as the consolidation of

the regional sites from 15 to 9, as well as other means of reducing costs while continuing to serve eligible children. The rate reduction of 10% is one of the cost areas that will be implemented beginning July 1, 2011 for FY 2012, and was reflected in the March 31, 2011 Report to the Joint Committees on Appropriations and Education. This timeline respects the rate structure that former Commissioner Gendron implemented for FY 2011 mentioned above.

		Current	New Title	10% Reduction	
<b>Early Intervention Sec 27</b>					
Individual Age 0-2	ER1	\$ 10.00	Special Instruction	\$ 9.00	15 min
Individual Age 3-5	ER2	\$ 10.00	Specially Designed Instruction	\$ 9.00	15 min
Consult/ECT meetings Age 0-2	ER13	\$ 10.00	Consultation/IFSP Meeting	\$ 9.00	15 min
Consult/ECT meetings Age 3-5	ER14	\$ 10.00	Consultation/IEP Meeting	\$ 9.00	15 min
Social Work Individual Age 0-2	ER7	\$ 10.00		\$ 9.00	15 min
Social Work Individual Age 3-5	ER8	\$ 10.00		\$ 9.00	15 min
Social Work Group Age 0-2	ER9	\$ 3.50		\$ 3.15	15 min
Social Work Group Age 3-5	ER10	\$ 3.50		\$ 3.15	15 min
Social Work Family Therapy Age 0-2	ER11	\$ 10.00		\$ 9.00	15 min
Social Work Family Therapy Age 3-5	ER12	\$ 10.00		\$ 9.00	15 min
Mainstream EI Age 0-2 per day	ER5	\$ 55.00		\$ 49.50	Per Day
Mainstream EI Age 3-5 per day	ER6	\$ 55.00		\$ 49.50	Per Day
One to One Aide	ER15				15 min
Cost determined by worksheet					

We hope that this clarifies the intention of the rate reduction as well as the actual percentage of the reduction. If you have specific questions, you may call Jim Rier at 624-6620, or Jaci Holmes at 624-6660.