

Adams County Child Health Notes is distributed by Adams County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Adams County Health District. This newsletter provides primary health care providers with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: Adams County ICC – Adams County Health District - State of Washington Department of Health and University of Washington - Center on Human Development and Disability. More information is available at http://depts.washington.edu/medhome/CHN/CHN_home.htm

SSI BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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 “disabled” infants and children, based on **disability and family income**. SSI is available to US citizens and to immigrants with a variety of types of status.

Conditions on which SSI can presume disability*:

HIV infection
Total Blindness
Total Deafness (in some cases)
Cerebral Palsy (in some cases)
Muscular dystrophy (in some cases)
Down syndrome
Mental retardation
Diabetes with amputation of 1 foot
Amputation of 2 limbs or leg @ hip

*SSI will make immediate payments for these conditions, for up to 6 months, until a formal disability decision is made

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
 - And** whose family's income is *under 200% of the federal poverty level*
- ? **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 \$545/month in 2002, 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)
- ? **Referral to DSHS** which can
 - ✍ Determine eligibility for *food stamps*
 - ✍ 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.
 - ✍ Refer to the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program of Washington's Dept of Health. CSHCN provides case management and can assist with the cost of medically necessary services not covered by other payers.

HOW DO FAMILIES APPLY FOR THE SSI PROGRAM?

- ? Families can apply themselves; OR a Family Resources Coordinator or another 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).
 - o 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.
 - o 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 babies
- ? 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 parents' 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 (see FRC on back).

? Provide updated proof of disability when requested by SSA.

ADAMS COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

✍ **For children under age three:** Contact: Callie Moore, FRC/PHN
Adams County Health District – Phone 509-659-3317

✍ **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone	Fax	District:	Phone	Fax
Othello	488-4682	488-4893	Lind	677-3481	677-3463
Ritzville	659-0232	659-4119	Washtucna	646-3237	646-3249

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- ✍ **Local:** Division of Developmental Disabilities 509-764-5674
Children with Special Health Care Needs 509-659-3317
- ✍ **Regional:** Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies 1800-322-2588
www.hmhbwa.org
- Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program www.wa.gov/dshs/iteip/iteip.html
- Parent to Parent Support Programs of Washington 1-800-821-5927
- Washington State Fathers Network 425-747-4004 ext. 218
www.fathersnetwork.org
- ✍ **National/
Internet:** American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org
AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics www.dbpeds.org/
American Academy of Family Physicians www.aafp.org
Family Village (Extensive family resources for CSHCN) www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/
Family Voices (Links to national and state family support networks) www.familyvoices.org
Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov (with a link in Spanish)

**Note: Callie Moore, PHN/FRC and Melva Zavala, FRC are available to help clients with the application process for SSI. Please contact us if you have patients that may qualify for SSI and need assistance to apply. Callie may be contacted at 659-3317, and Melva may be contacted at 488-5256.*