

WV Birth to Three Communications to the Field

Subject: Future Changes in OT/PT Auths

Released: March 25, 2008

Hello,

The purpose of this email is to remind you about the changes that are in the works for how authorizations are issued for occupational and physical therapy services in WV Birth to Three.

With input from several therapists across the state, we have been working with Covansys to make changes in the BTT data system in order to support the change in authorization process for OT and PT services.

We discussed these changes back in the fall of 2007 but it has taken some time to get the database changes completed. We anticipate that the changes will be in place by May or June.

I'm sending this email as a reminder to enrolled therapists. We will have a Technical Assistance Bulletin going out to the field shortly.

When the changes become effective, BTT will no longer be issuing any service authorizations directly to COTAs or PTAs. Service authorizations for occupational therapy/physical therapy evaluation, teaming, or IFSP service will be issued only to licensed OTs and PTs.

PTAs and COTAs will need to be enrolled in the BTT system, but they will work in conjunction with their supervising PT or OT. When an OT or PT is selected to provide an IFSP service for a child/family, the OT/PT will be free to let the family know if they have a COTA or PTA working along with them, and if that COTA or PTA will be providing any portion of the IFSP service.

We will continue with the same rate of payment. No additional authorizations occur to cover time spent in supervision – that cost is incorporated into the service unit payment. The PT/PTA or OT/COTA will work out their own financial arrangements.

Please let me know if you have any questions – you can send them to pamroush@wvdhhr.org. Your questions will help me complete the details of the TA Bulletin.

Thanks to everyone who has assisted us with this process.

Pam

Pam Roush, Director
WV Birth to Three