

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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September 10, 1999



N.L.:10-0899

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**TO:** California Children's Services (CCS) Program Administrators, Medical Consultants, and Children's Medical Services (CMS) Regional Office

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNICATION DISORDER CENTER STANDARDS

The criteria for participation in the CCS program as a center providing services to eligible children with a hearing loss and/or speech/language disorder have been revised and updated to reflect the current standards of audiologic services and to assure that children have access to the most appropriate care. Chapter 3.40 of the CCS Manual of Procedures, Communication Disorder Center Standards, is effective the date of this letter and replaces Chapter 3.14, "Facilities Serving Children with Hearing Impairment." The Communication Disorder Standards, Chapter 3.40, are enclosed.

The changes and rewriting of the Communication Disorder Center Standards were developed in conjunction with the program's Audiology Technical Advisory Committee. All pending applications for "Facilities Serving Children with Hearing Impairment" (Chapter 3.14 of the CCS Manual of Procedures) will be reviewed based on the new standards. Currently approved facilities are being asked to reapply.

Please notice the many references in the Communication Disorder Center Standards to "CCS-paneled audiologists." We have felt it appropriate to also acknowledge and include audiologists in the groups of providers who participate as members of the CCS panel and provide services to CCS-eligible children with hearing loss. Eligibility for paneling includes current California licensure and two years of professional experience, one of which shall have been with children and adolescents under 21 years of age. Letters were sent to all California-licensed audiologists, regardless of their current place of employment, asking them to apply for paneling. The Communication Disorder Center Directors have also been informed of the paneling requirement for audiologists employed through their centers.

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As these activities are in process, CMS staff is aware of the need for clarification of the system of reimbursement for audiologic services provided to CCS-eligible children with a hearing loss. The CMS staff are working with the representatives of the Medi-Cal programs to address audiology reimbursement issues.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Sherwood, M.A, Hearing Conservation Specialist, at (415) 904-9678.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maridee Gregory" followed by a small mark that appears to be initials or a flourish.

Maridee A. Gregory, M.D., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosure