



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

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Commissioner

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This provides notice that on August 1, 2007, the changes to the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) Family Cost Participation policies and procedures will go into effect. These changes were subject to public comment during September and October of 2006 and a summary of the public comments, along with the related responses, remains accessible online or through your service coordinator at:

http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/documents/public_comment_response_1206.pdf.

Please be advised that families will be responsible for paying their family cost share in accordance with these new policies and procedures effective August 1, 2007. This notice provides options for families with regard to the implementation of these policies and procedures. Families that do not notify the service coordinator prior to August 1, 2007 of their decision to change IFSP service currently in place, will be responsible for the payment of their family cost share as specified on this notice.

The revised policies and procedures are available online in the Family Cost Participation Handbook at: http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/cost_participation.shtml. If you do not have online access, please contact your service coordinator for a hard copy. The revisions include, among other changes, the following:

- A flat progressive monthly cost share has been changed to a progressive hourly co-payment for direct early intervention services. Families have been paying a flat per month cost share for all IFSP services prior to these changes. As of August 1, 2007 families will be required to pay a per hour cost for their IFSP services.
- The progressive co-payment has been increased across nine tiers (100% Federal Poverty Level [FPL] increase at each tier) up to the point where a family's cost share is the actual cost of direct services (100%).
- The progressive co-payment begins at \$5 per hour of service for families at 350% FPL.
- The family is responsible for costs not to exceed 5% of their annual household income, as calculated by the NJEIS.
- Families with more than one child receiving early intervention services are responsible for the family co-payment for each hour of direct services for all children receiving NJEIS services, but are not charged beyond a monthly maximum calculated for the family.

You have the following rights, listed in the Family Rights Handbook, available at:
<http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/documents/familyrights.pdf>:

- To request an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) review meeting to discuss any change in services;
- To decline some or all direct services on your IFSP, including those that are subject to a family cost share;
- To request a reinstatement of services, if you choose now to decline or suspend. However, if services are declined or suspended and then reinstated, any services not rendered as a result of a family-directed service disruption will not be subject to compensatory services policies.

Prior to August 1, 2007, you must inform your NJEIS service coordinator about changes, if any, you want to make regarding the early intervention services you are receiving. The options for change include:

1. Reduce or decline some of your services;
2. Decline all service except those provided at public expense (service coordination, evaluation/assessment, IFSP development, and family rights); or
3. Decline all service and exit the New Jersey Early Intervention System.

If you intend to change your services and do not wish to begin paying the new co-payment for services provided as of August 1, 2007, you must:

1. Notify your service coordinator in writing of any services that you are declining effective August 1, 2007; and
2. Notify your provider agency/practitioner to cancel or discontinue the services.

You also may contact your service coordinator to schedule an IFSP meeting to review and consider changes in services on your IFSP prior to August 1, 2007.

Reminder: Families that do not notify the service coordinator prior to August 1, 2007 of their decision to change IFSP service currently in place, will be responsible for the payment of their family cost share as specified on this notice.

You may estimate your new family cost share per month based on the current services you are receiving by using the worksheet provided below and the information contained in the Family Cost Participation Notice.

Family Cost Share Monthly Billing Worksheet

Monthly Billing Worksheet	
1. Enter your hourly co-pay from the <u>Family Cost Participation Notice</u> based on the NJEIS determined income, and family size.	
2. Enter the estimated number of hours of service your family is authorized to receive in a calendar month.	
3. Calculate the estimated monthly cost of service by multiplying line 1 times line 2.	
4. Enter your monthly maximum cost share from the <u>Family Cost Participation Notice</u> .	
5. Take the lesser of line 3 or 4. This is your estimated monthly family cost share.	

Questions regarding the new family cost participation should be directed to your service coordinator and practitioner(s).