Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention and Early Childhood Intervention:

Connecting Families with Services

TEXAS Department of State Health Services

TEXAS Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Healthcare Providers and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Early identification and referral to intervention services are critical for a child's communication and cognitive development. Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services can help children achieve academic success and life milestones.

Navigating the healthcare and early intervention systems can be overwhelming. Families look to healthcare providers for guidance on their child's growth and development. In your role as an outpatient screener or audiologist, you are a primary referral source to ECI on behalf of families.

Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)

Two to three out of every 1,000 newborns will experience some form of an audiological issue. Being deaf or hard of hearing is more common than any other birth disorder.

If not detected and treated early, a child can have communication and cognitive development delays.

The primary goal of the Texas Department of State Health Services TEHDI continuum of care is to provide early hearing detection and intervention as early as possible so infants and children can reach their maximum potential.

TEHDI's Continuum of Care Six Components:

1. Newborn hearing screen.
2. Medical home.
3. Outpatient follow-up screen.
4. Referral to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to assist the family in following up with an audiologist to confirm or clear an audiological issue.
5. Audiological evaluation.
6. Referral to ECI for specialized intervention services after confirmation of being deaf or hard of hearing.

Role of ECI

For more than 30 years, ECI has provided specialized services to Texas families and children from birth to 36 months of age who have developmental delays, qualifying medical conditions, are deaf/hard of hearing or are visually impaired. The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) oversees the ECI program. This state agency contracts with local agencies and organizations to provide ECI services to families across Texas.

How to Submit a Referral to ECI

An outpatient follow-up hearing screen should occur no earlier than 10 days following the last birth screen. If the follow-up screen is a "do not pass," a referral can be electronically submitted to ECI through the TEHDI management information system (MIS).

Referrals to ECI should be made:

- After an outpatient follow-up screen requires a referral for an audiological diagnostic evaluation.
- When an audiologist confirms that an infant or child is deaf or hard of hearing.

Using the TEHDI MIS

The TEHDI MIS is a web-based system that supports care coordination. Healthcare providers can enter information about the family including:

- Contact information
- Preferred language
- Other medical needs, diagnoses or conditions, including time spent in the neonatal intensive care unit
- Confirmation that the family knows about the referral to ECI
- Case notes

Healthcare providers can contact the TEHDI program to obtain a user name, password, and schedule system training:

Website: www.provideraccess.tehdi.com

Email: ozhelp@oz-systems.com

Phone: 866-427-5768*, select option 3, and ask for a TEHDI coordinator

More about ECI and Other Resources

Early Childhood Intervention Services Websites:

www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml
www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/careline.shtml

Email: dars.inquiries@dars.state.tx.us

Phone: 800-628-5115*

Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)

Website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tehdi

Email: tehdi@dshs.state.tx.us

Phone: 800-252-8023 ext. 7726*

Texas Hands & Voices

Website: www.txhandsandvoices.org/txhv

Email: office@txhv.org

Phone: 936-463-8948*

Educational Resource Center on Deafness

Website: www.texasdhhresources.org

Email: ercod@tsd.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-462-5329*

**Use relay option of your choice to call if needed.*

#1-342_11/2015

TEHDI
Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

early childhood intervention ECI

ECI Process After an Outpatient Follow-Up Screen Referral

Staff from the local ECI program will contact the family to explain ECI services and the importance of scheduling an appointment with an audiologist. ECI can help the family find an audiologist and connect them with resources such as transportation to medical appointments.

If the family is concerned about their child's development in other areas, ECI can perform an evaluation to detect possible developmental delays. Some children may have delays or a qualifying medical condition such as visual impairment as well as being deaf or hard of hearing. ECI can provide support and services for families to address these additional needs.

How ECI Helps Families After a Confirmed Diagnosis

ECI includes the infant's family to develop a plan with specialized services such as:

- **Individualized Planning Process:** Once eligibility is determined, an interdisciplinary team including the family develops an individualized family service plan (IFSP).
- **Family-Centered Services:** Services are based on the unique needs and concerns of each child and family. ECI professionals teach families how to support their child's development using activities that occur naturally throughout the day.
- **Case Management:** ECI programs provide comprehensive case management to help families receive services and resources to support their child's development. All ECI families receive case management services.
- **Familiar Settings:** Most ECI services are provided in the home, but services can be provided in other places the child and family regularly visit—childcare centers, parks, libraries or other community settings.
- **Professional Providers:** The team that evaluates the infant or child and helps the family plan services may include: licensed or credentialed early intervention specialists, speech and language pathologists, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, registered nurses, dietitians, social workers, counselors, and teachers of the deaf or hard of hearing and visually impaired.
- **Plans for Continuing Services:** ECI services end on a child's third birthday. ECI helps families look for and transition to options that will help meet their needs after ECI services end, such as pre-school programs, Head Start, therapy services, or services through the public schools.

ECI Services for Children

ECI coordinates with deaf or hard of hearing education programs within school districts, Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf/ Hard of Hearing (RDSPDs), and the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD).

Services for infants and toddlers age birth to three are often referred to as deaf education early intervention or parent-infant services.

The school district assigns a teacher certified in deaf or hard of hearing to be a member of the ECI interdisciplinary team to help plan and implement services.

Deaf education early intervention services focus on helping infants develop communication, language, and social skills. ECI professionals help families when they have questions about their child's communication and development.

Families Should Know:

- Some ECI services are provided at no cost to families, including:
  - ✓ Evaluation and assessment to determine eligibility for ECI services
  - ✓ Development of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
  - ✓ Translation and interpreter services
  - ✓ Case management
- ECI provides services to families at all income levels.
- ECI coordinates the transition to the school district.
- Families may choose to receive early intervention (EI) services from other providers and still receive services from ECI.
- ECI receives funding under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the State of Texas' Family Cost Share (FCS) system and other state funds.