



## DDSN Executive Memo

**TO:** Executive Directors of DSN Boards  
Directors of Early Intervention Services

**FROM:** DDSN State Director Mary Poole

**DATE:** November 14, 2018

**RE:** Early Intervention (EI) Payment System Update

On July 1, 2018, DDSN turned over to SC DHHS full ownership and funding of the BabyNet Program providing EI services to children ages 0 to 3. However, BabyNet service payments will continue using the existing DDSN EI billing/payment system for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). DDSN will continue to operate and fund EI services for children ages 3 to 6.

DDSN pays for all EI services through two payment models. Disability Boards (includes Epworth Children's Home) receive prospective monthly grant payments based on their consumer census to fund FTE positions, while Qualified Providers (QPLs) are reimbursed retrospectively in a FFS model. Both Disability Boards and QPLs will have to bill SC DHHS retrospectively for BabyNet services using a FFS model on or about July 1, 2019. The detail procedures for this transition are not available now, but it will generally require becoming a Medicaid provider through SC DHHS to enable access to its existing FFS billing/payment system. QPLs will continue to bill DDSN for EI services for children ages 3 to 6.

The key part of this Memo is to address planning for DDSN to pay Disability Boards for EI services for children ages 3 to 6 when the Disability Boards start billing SC DHHS for BabyNet service on or about July 1, 2019. DDSN's current prospective grant payment to Disability Boards does not distinguish BabyNet services (74% statewide average) from EI services to children 3 to 6 (26% statewide average). Currently, DDSN is planning, contingent upon Commission approval, to have Disability Boards also bill DDSN retrospectively in a FFS model for EI services to children ages 3 to 6 at the same time SC DHHS requires FFS billing for BabyNet on or about July 1, 2019.

In preparation for this transition in less than eight months, DDSN will provide a monthly report to Disability Boards comparing their billing units for all EI services (BabyNet 0-3 & EI 3-6) at the current DDSN FFS rate (\$23.52) with their current DDSN monthly prospective grant. This will assist Disability Boards assessing their existing service productivity and billing efficiency for all EI services, as well as assist in forecasting a revenue increase or shortfall under a FFS model.

Attached to this memo is a chart of actual monthly billing/grant payment comparisons for a four month period, from July to October 2018. The statewide average percentage of actual EI billings under FFS compared to grant payments for each of the four months were: July (69%); August (72%); September (59%); and October (79%). Disability Boards can identify their agency by finding their "provider number," which is the same number used in case management productivity reports or contact Sandra Delaney (803/898-9769) for your number. DDSN will continue providing monthly reports for the remainder of FY 2019, which should be sent to providers by the 15<sup>th</sup> each month.

For additional questions or clarifications, please contact Interim Program Director Joyce Kimrey at (803) 898-9145 or via email [jkimrey@ddsn.sc.gov](mailto:jkimrey@ddsn.sc.gov).

## Percent of Contract Amounts if Billed Fee for Service at \$23.52 July - October 2018

