



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
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May 14, 2010

Dear SPOE Personnel and First Steps Providers,

Following a review of program policy, and state and federal regulation, effective June 1, 2010, First Steps will no longer authorize payment for orthotics. The process for making this change is as follows:

- 1) After May 14, 2010, IFSP team meetings may not include discussions of orthotics as a paid First Steps service.
- 2) Authorizations already entered for orthotics will be honored as appropriate under current procedure.
- 3) First Steps will authorize payment in cases where proof is given that, prior to May 14, 2010, the team has discussed with the family First Steps' payment for orthotics. In order for the service coordinator to enter an authorization for orthotics, a prior approval from the State must be obtained. Prior approval requests must be received on or before June 1, 2010 and include documentation of team discussions with the parent.
- 4) SPOEs entering authorizations for orthotics in violation of this new policy assume financial responsibility for the device.

Discussions with Indiana orthotics providers indicate that Medicaid and private health insurance are consistently paying for orthotics for our children, and that hardship provisions are made for the rare exceptions. While First Steps will no longer be a funding source for these devices, **service coordinators continue to be responsible for coordinating access to all beneficial supports and services needed by eligible families and children.** Therefore, service coordinators and SPOEs should expect and be prepared to offer parents, whose children will benefit from these devices, contact information for orthotics providers operating in their cluster.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lora L. Miller, Director
Bureau of Child Development Services

First Steps is a program of the Bureau of Child Development Services
within the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

