

DDD UPDATE



Division of Developmental Disabilities
Member Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

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New Definitions for Autism are Coming!

By Dr. Robert Klaehn



After many years of work, the new descriptions for all mental health conditions are being released in May. Called "DSM-V," the 5th version of the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual," includes new descriptions for Autism. There are big changes coming!

The old definitions in the "DSM-IV" split Autism Spectrum Disorders into several conditions such as Autism; Asperger's Disorder; and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified ("PDD, NOS"). Only Autism was covered by the Division. With DSM-V, all the old definitions are going away. There will be only one diagnosis: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which will be covered by the Division. It is important to note that there must be serious problems with a child's ability to function in daily life plus the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder to be eligible for DDD services.

One of the biggest changes is that "sensory issues" are now part of the Autism Spectrum Disorder definitions. We all know that children with ASD are extra sensitive to noises, textures of clothing and having their teeth or hair brushed – now these behaviors are part of the official description. Many of the old descriptions, such as poor eye contact, difficulty making friends and having repetitive movements are still in the new DSM-V.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008; the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics and retaliation.

The Department must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service or activity. For example, this means if necessary, the Department must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Department will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity.

If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities ADA Coordinator at 602-542-0419; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DES services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DES está disponible a solicitud del cliente.

Looking for an ALTCS Member Handbook?

Go to www.azdes.gov/ddd/ to obtain a copy or call your Support Coordinator.



Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)

Medicare offers prescription drug coverage for everyone with Medicare.

If you decide not to join a Medicare drug plan when you're first eligible and you don't have other prescription coverage, or you don't get *Extra Help (a Medicare program for people with limited income)*, you're likely to pay a penalty if you join a plan later.

To get Part D coverage, you must join a plan approved by Medicare. To search for a plan, visit the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

Each plan can vary in costs and specific drugs covered.

You can join a Medicare drug plan by enrolling on the plan's website or on www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.



HIV /AIDS Testing for Pregnant Women

Source: CDC—INFO

- CDC recommends HIV screening for all women as a standard part of prenatal care in order to identify and treat HIV and to prevent transmission of HIV to infants.
- Women who test positive for HIV and begin treatment early in their pregnancy reduce the risk of mother-to-child HIV transmission to 2% or less.
- Pediatric AIDS cases from mother to child transmission have significantly declined in the United States.
- Screening for HIV early in pregnancy, preferably at the first obstetrical visit, benefits both mothers and babies.
- Women with HIV who start treatment early and maintain it throughout their pregnancy protect their own health and rarely pass HIV to their infants.
- It is never too late for pregnant women to get tested. Preventive medications administered to the mother at labor, and to the infant after birth, can reduce the risk of mother-to-child HIV transmission to about 10 percent.

Cultural Competency



- The ability to appreciate cultural differences and similarities is an indicator of cultural competency. This applies not only within, but among, and between different groups.
- The key to building good relationships is to accept and respect cultural differences.
- Cultural competency has a positive effect on patient care. Health Care Providers deliver services that are respectful and responsive.
- Cultural competence supports positive health outcomes and benefits consumers
- Cultural Competency values the inclusion of the health beliefs, practices, cultural and linguistic needs of all members.
- Cultural competency is crucial to improving access to quality health care. One must be respectful of the needs of all patients.

Source: National Institutes of Health, U.S. DHHS

Division Policy Changes

If you would like to be notified directly about Division policy changes, please opt in by sending an email with your contact information to DDDPolicy@azdes.gov

Early Intervention

Early Intervention is a process in which therapists and educators work as a team with parents and families of children with special needs. They do this to support the child's growth, development, and learning using a team approach to assist the family. This process helps support the needs of the child through everyday experiences with familiar people in familiar contexts.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) is a special purpose advisory council on matters relating to developmental disabilities.

Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is July 9, 2013. Call 602-542-6850 for more information.

Natural environments are the activities, routines and places that all children of the same age participate in. Whether they have disabilities or not, infants and toddlers play and go to the grocery store. They enjoy having books read to them. Services and supports provided in natural environments are a part of the family and child's daily activities and routines. They promote integration of a child and family into the community.