

AT

Assistive Technology for Early Intervention



Designated Service Coordinator Training

*Supporting Families who have children who are deaf, hard of
hearing, visually impaired, blind or deaf-blind*

AT Authorizations

- ▶ If a child is potentially eligible for DSCC, a referral to DSCC may be made prior to or at the same time as an AT request is submitted to the EI Program.
- ▶ If a child is Medicaid-eligible, referrals to DSCC are not necessary. These requests are sent directly to the EI Program.

AT Authorizations, cont.

- ▶ The EI program pays for hearing aids prior to All Kids and after DSCC or private insurance has been maximized.

AT Protocol

- ▶ The family must use an **EI-enrolled** audiologist.



AT Protocol, cont.

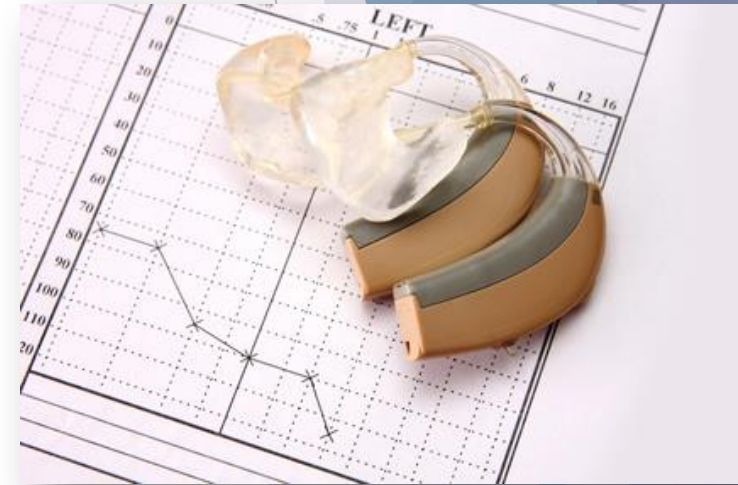
■ For children who require a **Hearing Aid Assessment** to determine the possible need for hearing aids, Service Coordinators will generate authorizations using the procedure code V5010.

▶ V5010 – Hearing aid assessment \$68.69



AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ The Service Coordinator or CFC AT Coordinator is responsible for assembling the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) team, **ensuring that the need for hearing aids is appropriately related to one or more of the child's functional outcomes and is documented in the IFSP, 'Hearing Aids' should not be an outcome, but rather a strategy that supports an outcome.** By working closely with the EI enrolled audiologist, it ensures that the necessary components of the AT packet are obtained and submitted to the Bureau of EI's Assistive Technology Coordinator for approval.



AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ The AT packet is required to include:
 - ▶ EI AT Request form
 - ▶ DSCC eligibility denial letter, if applicable
 - ▶ CFC *Consent for Release of Information–Children with Identified Hearing Loss* form
 - ▶ IFSP Pages, including
 - ▶ Cover/demographic page indicating hearing loss and ICD–10 code
 - ▶ Levels of Development pages from IFSP and
 - ▶ Outcome page(s)

AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ Medical clearance/prescription from the physician (PCP, ENT)
- ▶ Letter of Developmental Necessity, written by an EI enrolled Audiologist
- ▶ Vender quote on letterhead (if not included with Letter of Developmental Necessity) by EI enrolled Audiologist
- ▶ Manufacturer's requisition price list
- ▶ Hearing Evaluation Report/Audiogram

AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ Refer to the *Early Intervention Assistive Technology Guidelines* included in the CFC Procedure Manual for complete information and forms.

- ▶ http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/DCHP/EI/EIAssistiveTechGuideandAttach.pdf

EARLY INTERVENTION ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GUIDELINES

DEFINITION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The definition of Assistive Technology (AT) includes both AT devices and AT services. An AT device is any durable item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

An AT service means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an AT device. The term includes:

- The evaluation of the needs of a child with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the child in the child's natural environment;
- Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of AT devices by children with disabilities;
- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, retaining, repairing, or replacing AT devices;
- Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with AT devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;
- Training or technical assistance for a child with a disability or, if appropriate, that child's family; and
- Training or technical assistance for professionals who provide services to children with disabilities through the Early Intervention program.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

Assistive technology devices range from low technology to high technology items. Low technology devices are devices that rely on mechanical principles and can be purchased or made using simple hand tools and easy to find materials, such as homemade or modified items already used in the home. High technology devices include sophisticated equipment and may involve electronics.

Consideration of the types of AT devices and services available through this system is continually monitored. Determination of what equipment and services falls within these guidelines will be updated periodically as these considerations are reviewed. Eligible devices and services refer to items and services for which payment can be made. A written recommendation (order), signed and dated by the child's physician (often a prescription form) is required for all items requested.

AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ All documentation submitted for an AT request must be signed and dated within six months of sending the AT request to the Bureau of EI. A request may be mailed or submitted through secure webmail.
- ▶ Credentialed evaluators and enrolled audiologists bill for time required to write assistive technology letter of developmental necessity using IFSP development code 99499 **plus related modifier for some disciplines.**
(wording is a revision to the Service Guidelines Document)

AT Protocol, cont.

- ▶ The AT review process may take up to 30 calendar days for approval once a complete AT packet/request is received at the Bureau of EI. If an incomplete packet is submitted, the approval time may take longer.



AT Protocol, cont.



- ▶ Once the Bureau of EI notifies the CFC AT Coordinator of an AT approval, the CFC AT Coordinator notifies the audiologist by sending the authorization for hearing aids. The audiologist/vendor may proceed with ordering the hearing aids.

Hearing Aids

When a child is identified as needing Hearing Aid(s), the SC should oversee the following practice for developing the required AT Request and Authorizations, etc.

- IFSP team meets to discuss and add the AT equipment determined as a need to the appropriate functional outcome(s)
- Work with the CFC AT Coordinator as determined by your CFC requirements



- Obtain medical clearance to fit amplification from an ENT or PCP
- Obtain the letter of developmental necessity from the audiologist listing the type of HA's needed and other equipment, (I.e. earmolds, batteries, pediatric care kit), along with the vendor quote, and manufacturer's price list.
- Obtain the vendor quote and acquisition (discounted) manufacturer's pricing from the vendor
- Print the applicable pages of the IFSP – demographic page with diagnoses (hearing loss diagnosis required), levels of development and functional outcome(s)
- Complete the AT request packet and mail or scan/ secure webmail to the Bureau of EI – AT Coordinator



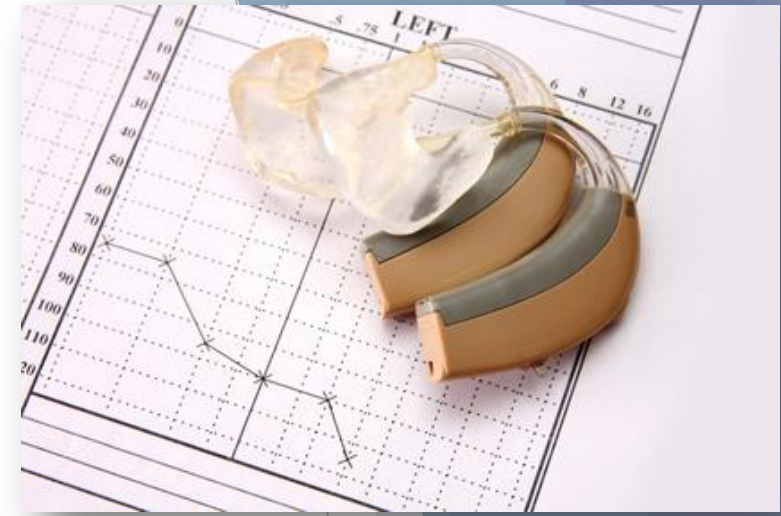
Hearing Aids

Once approved, the CFC AT Coordinator will receive the AT Status Memo. The following actions are outlined on the memo:

- Enter authorizations as listed on approval memo including HCPCS code(s), quantity, price, etc
- Work with provider regarding dates of delivery and/or private insurance usage.

Hearing Aids Costs

- ▶ Maximum allowable rates have been determined by the EI Program for hearing aids. DSCC rates are followed but a cut back is not taken by the EI program.
- ▶ Hearing aids are paid at 1.5 times (acquisition) of the single unit cost.
- ▶ Shipping and handling is not a covered expense by the EI program.



Hearing Aid Dispensing Costs



- ▶ V5160 Hearing aid dispensing fee: binaural \$340.24
- ▶ V5241 Hearing aid dispensing fee: monaural hearing aid, any type \$211.28

Earmold Costs



- ▶ When replacement ear molds are needed, the Audiologist contacts the Service Coordinator to authorize, without prior approval from the AT coordinator. A Letter of Developmental Necessity and Medical Order/Clearance from the Physician must be kept in the file at the CFC office. Earmolds are authorized no more than two per authorization at \$36.25 each.
- ▶ Earmold Procedure Code is V5264.

Battery Costs

- ▶ Hearing aid batteries may be authorized for 16 batteries every 60 days at a rate of \$1.52 each without prior approval from the EI AT Coordinator. The letter of Developmental Necessity must be kept in the file at the CFC office.



- ▶ Hearing Aid Battery procedure code is V5266.

Repairs

- ▶ When repairs to a hearing aid are needed, the Service Coordinator faxes an AT Request Form and a repair quote from an enrolled audiologist to the EI AT Coordinator. Upon Bureau of EI approval, the Service Coordinator may generate the authorization for repairs.



Eyeglasses Procedures

The process for ordering eye glasses starts with an Optometric exam. Remember all services must be pre-authorized. The SC must create an authorization to an EI enrolled Optometrist to perform the exam.

- Procedure Code 92015 – Optometric Examination

If the child does receive eye glasses, a second authorization must be entered.

- Procedure Code 92340 – Dispensing fee

Practice has been to create both authorizations simultaneously but they can be created at separate times based on the process with the Optometrist and the CFC.



Eyeglasses Procedures

The EI Optometrist is responsible for billing private insurance, as applicable.

For eyeglasses to be purchased by EI, the Optometrist must contact the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) at 1-800-523-1487 to request the frame kit. Once the frame is chosen with the family, the Optometrist should follow these procedures:

- Complete the IDOC optical prescription order form and attach order form to claim form. Submit order form and claim to the EI CBO. This triggers EI to generate the authorization for the eyeglasses to send to IDOC.
- IDOC will make the eyeglasses and send directly to the Optometrist to properly fit the glasses on the child

EI Pays for the following:

- Frames from the IDOC Frame Kit
- Lenses – single vision – spheres and compounds (either plastic or glass)
- Special lenses (myodisc, lenticular nonaspheric, lenticular aspheric)
- Bifocals – spheres and compounds
- Single Vision or Bifocals polycarbonate lenses (medically required)
- Photogray (medically required)



HCPCS Code Changes

- When a vendor requests a change of the HCPCS code of an item such as an orthotic, update the AT request form and send with the new vendor quote and pricing to DHS as “missing AT” via fax or webmail.

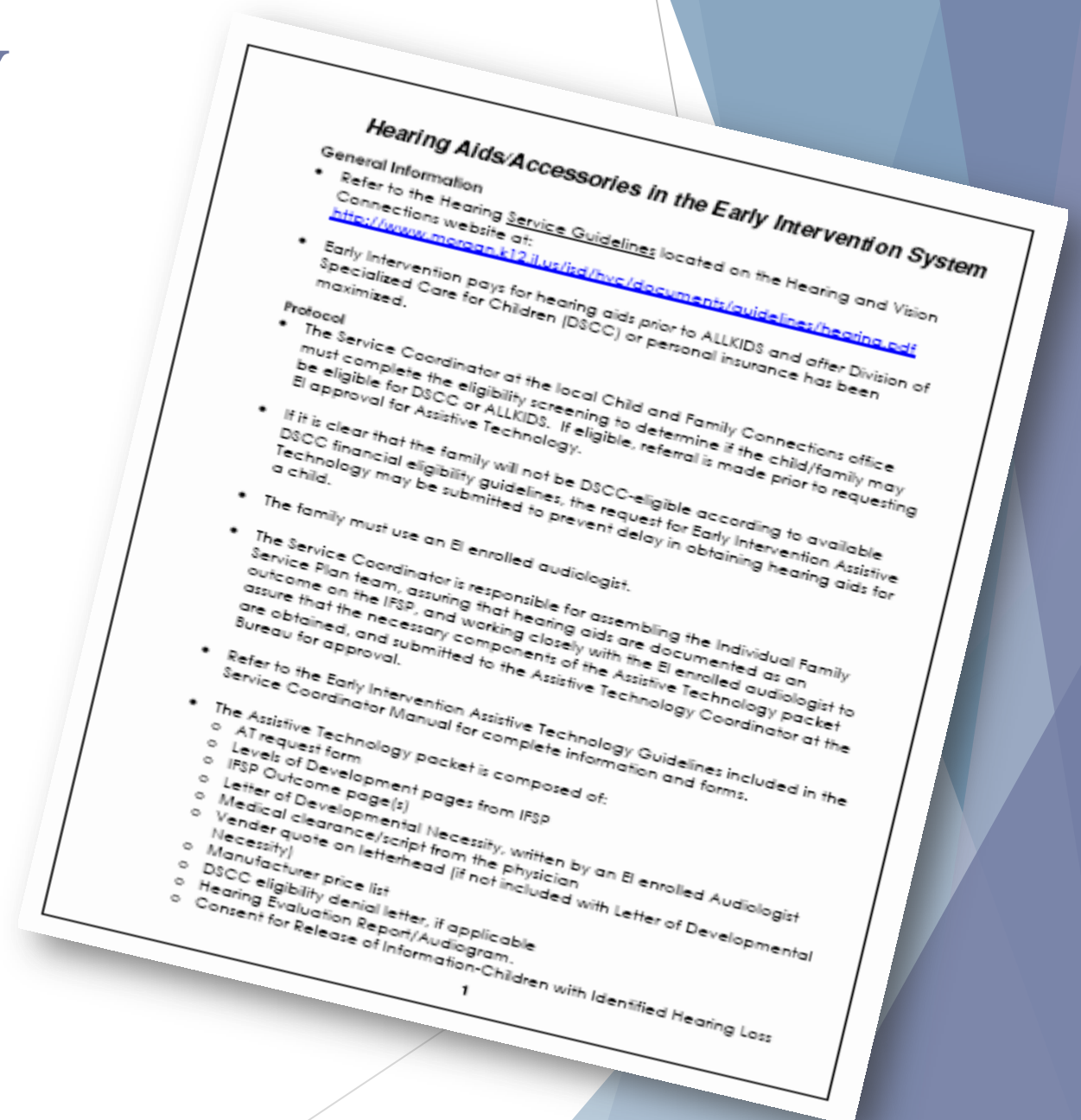
AT Resources

- ▶ Online Service Coordinator Training
- ▶ Designated Service Coordinator Training
- ▶ Service Guidelines
- ▶ EI Provider Handbook
- ▶ Assistive Technology Guidelines within CFC Procedure Manual
- ▶ Hearing Aid Document



Assistive Technology

- ▶ The document *Hearing Aids/ Accessories in Early Intervention* provides specific procedures for the needs for AT of children with hearing loss and is included in the service guidelines document.



Additional AT Training

The *Art of Assessment for Assistive Technology* training is suggested for those wishing to fully understand the goals of AT assessments, explore the components and processes of functional AT assessments, and consider the decision making processes that determine the need for AT equipment to support a child within their everyday activities. Please visit the EI Training Program's website at www.eitp.education.illinois.edu for more information.

AT Contact Information

- *Colleen Cunningham*

IDHS – Bureau of Early Intervention Assistive Technology Coordinator

Email: colleen.cunningham@illinois.gov

Phone: 217-782-1981

Vision AT: The Illinois Instructional Materials Center



▶ Support Contact:

▶ Andrea Marwah

▶ 708-409-8800

▶ Andrea.marwah@illinois.gov

▶ www.soundbeginnings.com



Website Link

This is where all your training materials will be housed.

<http://www.illinoisoundbeginnings.org/>



Illinois Detection & Intervention Program

- DSC Training
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- ECHO - OAE Hearing Screening
- EHDI News for Physicians
- EHDIPALS.org
- EHDI Workgroup Webinars
- Guide By Your Side (GBYS)
- Reporting Resources



UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

NEWS

- [Learn American Sign Language \(9/21/2016\)](#)
- [ECHO Initiative webinars \(7/6/2016\)](#)
- [Introducing the Newest EHDI Physician Champion \(7/28/2015\)](#)
- [Prev](#) | [Current](#) | [Next](#)

Illinois EHDI works with parents and providers to ensure all babies get screened for hearing loss no later than 1 month of age; all infants who do not pass their hearing screen receive a diagnostic evaluation no later than 3 months of age; and all infants with a hearing loss enroll in early intervention services no later than 6 months of age.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

- UIC - Division of Specialized Care for Children
Tel: 800-322-3722 TTY 217-785-4725
Fax: 217-558-0773
- Illinois Department of Public Health
Tel: 217-782-4733
- Illinois Department of Human Services
Tel: 800-843-6154 TTY 800-447-6404



ILLINOIS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF OUTREACH

FREE training and consultation for Illinois children
with hearing loss

bit.ly/ISDOutreach



Search for Illinois School for the Deaf Outreach



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Dept. of Human Services
Illinois School for the Deaf**

**Bruce Rauner, Governor
James Dimas, Secretary
Julee Nist, Superintendent**