

Program Policy Manual



BABIES CAN'T WAIT
dph.georgia.gov/bcw

POLICY MANUAL

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**Maternal and Child Health Section
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs**

PREFACE

This manual contains basic information and State and Federal guidance for the provision of services for eligible children, birth through 2 years of age, enrolled in the Babies Can't Wait (BCW) program and their families.

The manual is intended for use by participating service providers, Early Intervention partners and stakeholders and should be used in conjunction with applicable agreements, which outlines the Statement of Participation and terms and conditions for receipt of reimbursement and payments; as well as relevant Child Health programs' policy and procedure manuals, i.e., Children First (C1st), Children Medical Services (CMS), etc.

We urge all BCW personnel and providers to become familiar with the contents of this manual and refer to it when questions arise. Use of the manual will assist in the elimination of misunderstandings concerning the coverage levels, eligibility, and billing procedures that can result in delays in payment, incorrect payment, or denial of payment.

Amendments to this manual will be necessary from time to time due to changes in Federal and State Local Educational Agency (LEA) and Department of Public Health (DPH), Maternal and Child Health policies. When such amendments are made, they will be posted on the DPH website at: <http://dph.georgia.gov/bcw-providers>, which shall constitute formal notice to providers. The amended provisions will be effective on the date of the notice or as specified by the notice itself, and all providers are responsible for complying with the amended manual provisions as of their effective dates.

This policy is updated in accordance with current applicable federal regulations and supersedes any prior action bulletins and prior policies.

Public Law 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA), was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ford in 1975. This law is well-known; it required states to fully educate all children with disabilities. It has been amended several times. In 1986, the EHA was amended through P.L. 99-457 to, among other things, lower the age at which children can receive special services to 3 years old. It also established the Handicapped Infants and Toddlers Program (formally Part H, renamed Part C in 1997), which is for children who need additional supports from birth to their third birthday. The amendments of 1990 and 1991 brought about more changes, among which was a change in the name from EHA to the IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Public Law 108-446, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 was signed into law December 3, 2004. The rules or guidelines for special education in the United States and its territories are outlined in the IDEA. Each state or territory develops its own policies for carrying out this Act. The final Federal Regulations 2011 "implement changes in the regulations governing the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities necessitated by the reauthorization of the IDEA" and are utilized to guide the implementation of this mandate in Georgia.