

Catherine A. Cooper
Authorized Signature

Number: SPD-IM-06-007
Issue Date: 1/10/06

Topic: Developmental Disabilities

Subject: eXPRS - Critical Change

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): DD Service Providers. all eXPRS users |

Message: This is to advise you of a critical change in the Department's direction for electronic processing of Developmental Disability service payments in eXPRS.

Background

In November 2005 the Department sent correspondence (see [SPD-IM-05-090](#)) indicating that further expansion of eXPRS had been temporarily suspended. Work was halted on developing the functionality needed to process the remaining DD service element (SE) payments beyond implementation of SE 50, 51, and 54 currently operating in eXPRS.

The purpose of the suspension was to respond to a request from CMS -- the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (the primary source of funds for eXPRS) -- asking that the Department "prepare and present a cost/benefit comparison" between the continued expansion of eXPRS vs. the integration of the remaining DD service elements into the Department's new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) currently in development. The new MMIS, also funded by CMS, is being developed by the Department to replace the 30-year old technology and business processes of the current MMIS system.

Critical Update

The cost-benefit comparison revealed that integrating the remaining DD service elements into the new MMIS system would be more cost effective than continuing to develop the functionality needed for eXPRS to process these payments. Further, the new MMIS project appears to be progressing at a more rapid pace than originally anticipated and the timeline for the remaining DD service elements to be operational in MMIS payment processing is feasible by February 2008. These conclusions, along

with the Department's request to proceed in this direction, were presented to CMS in December 2005. CMS has provided positive support for the Department to move ahead, however final CMS approval is not likely until February.

The Department's proposed plan is to integrate all DD Service payments into a single Medicaid payment system (the new MMIS), by including the DD service elements currently in eXPRS. The plan is to implement DD Service Elements to support the Staley Decision in Group 1 (44, 49, 148, 149, 150, 56) in October 2007, to implement DD Service Elements in Group 2 (LA01, 142, 143, 156, 145, 53, 48, 157, 57, 45, 46) in February 2008, and to implement the DD Service Elements currently in eXPRS (50, 51, 54, 141) in July 2008. A tentative schedule has been developed starting in April 2006.

From January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006, the eXPRS Team will be concentrating on completing urgent, critical items for addition or correction in the current eXPRS application. By March 31, 2006, eXPRS must be ready to be transitioned to the Department's Application Maintenance and Support group (AMS). At that time, information will be made available regarding the ongoing process to be utilized in problem resolution and maintenance of eXPRS. No new functionality will be developed for eXPRS after March 31, 2006.

MMIS Project

The DHS MMIS Replacement system will be a comprehensive Medicaid healthcare benefits administration system. DHS has contracted with EDS to transfer and customize an MMIS that is operational in Oklahoma to meet Oregon's requirements. DHS has contracted with Fox Systems to be the MMIS Quality Assurance Contractor to oversee the MMIS development and implementation process. The Oregon MMIS will include the capability to support eligibility and enrollment, service authorization, claims and encounters, member services, benefits administration, provider services, contracts management, financial services, quality assurance and utilization management. These capabilities will be evaluated for DD Services during the requirements period planned for May through November 2006. The MMIS Project is managed by a project management office led by the following staff:

DHS Project Manager, Jim Joyce, jim.joyce@state.or.us

DHS Business Implementation Manager, Tim Rahschulte, tim.rahschulte@state.or.us

EDS Project Manager, Sean Daly, sean.daly@eds.com

Quality Assurance Manager, Ron Hittner, ron.hittner@fox-systems.com

Many details associated with both the development of the MMIS application to accommodate DD services, as well as identification of the tasks necessary to assure the smooth, eventual transition of the existing eXPRS operation into MMIS, remain to be identified. The Department will share all additional information as it becomes available. We appreciate your help and support in working with eXPRS as it now exists and we look forward to working with you as we move into MMIS.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Jan Morgan, Business Manager for eXPRS		
Phone:	503-945-6409	Fax:	503-373-7274
E-mail:	janet.m.morgan@state.or.us		