

11/08/2009

WHEN TO WAIT FOR A NEW REFERRAL: The following exchange serves to illustrate a good point about referrals for students that have moved. Please read the email carefully, as this circumstance is frequently a question I get. . .

Hi Kristin,

I wanted to clarify referrals with you. If a child transfers schools, they require a new evaluation, correct? There is a child that transferred from Fleta to Opp Elementary (SAGCOL) and I have been waiting for the IEP holder to fax in a new script and referral so that I could complete a new eval. Is this correct? After speaking with Ashley today, she mentioned that perhaps this was not necessary since Fleta and Opp are probably in the same county?

Thank you,

Kari

Kari,

Fleta Jr High is part of Covington County Schools. Opp City Schools is a **different school system**, so a new referral would need to be sent in to us before we can see the child. You do not necessarily need to do a new EVAL, you can start therapy without doing a new eval if you're in agreement with the evaluation (whether you or someone else did it) and the goals, and it's fairly current (less than a year).

You'll notice when a child changes school systems that the teachers have created a "temporary IEP" based on the previous school systems' IEP. Within about 90 days they have to have the permanent IEP "in place." When they tell you, "Hey, here's a kid that just moved here—don't you see him?" make sure to remind them that they have to send in a new referral and Rx. Different school system, different money source. We need to create a paper trail in which the school system makes the request, thereby obligating their funds to pay for the service. We do not begin services unless the source has made the request. We can't work off a previous school system's request, because they wouldn't be paying for it any more, and we can't expect a new school system to pay for services that they didn't ask for. The school is not obligated to continue any of the services that were on a previous IEP. They always have a choice as to whether or not they will request a therapy service.

When the child was at Fleet Jr. High, Covington County sent a referral for OT, and we have it in his file. When he left CovCS, the therapist should have noted him as discharged from therapy due to moving out of the school system (by using a Change of Status Form). Now that he is in Opp City Schools, this child will not be on our caseload until Opp City Schools sends us a referral for OT. We keep the requests in a permanent file as proof that we are seeing students at the school's request, and that the request are legal and have been signed, having gone through all the proper legal channels. In each school system, when a request for a related service, such as therapy, or testing, or counseling is made, the parents have to sign that they are in agreement and authorize the professional intervention. If the parents are not in agreement, then the child cannot have the service, despite the need.

Please make sure you have notified Fleta that this child has moved out of CovCS so that the database correctly reflects the child's disposition, so the wrong school is not billed for any service. The correct form for this is the Change of Status form, which can be found on the website.

In a different scenario, if the child was moving from one school to another **within the same school system**, the same IEP would be used and the same services should continue without interruption.

I am going to post this on the website for everyone's benefit, as this is a very common question among

therapists who recognize that one of “their” students have popped up in a different school, and they don’t want them to miss out on therapy. However, we do have to make sure that the new referral has been made before proceeding, and your question will serve to better explain this situation to all.

Thank you,
Kristin

11/08/2009

**POTENTIAL CONTINUING ED CLASS AT WALLACE IN DOTHAN IN THE SPRING—
REPLY TO KRISTIN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING**

It is open to PT/PTA for 15 hours; OT/COTA and SLP, but only for 12 hours and it must be approved by their board.

Hello everyone,

I am trying to see how much interest there is from area clinicians in participating in a clinical instructor credentialing course. I’ve listed information below relevant to the course:

sponsored by APTA

approved for 15 continuing education hours for physical therapy providers, 12 hours for other therapy providers if approved by their board cost is \$70 for APTA members

\$140 for nonAPTA members

Group discounts are available (if interested, let me know and I’ll get a price for you)

Tentative date is set for March 6-7, 2010 (Saturday/Sunday).

Please pass this information along to all clinicians in your facility and anyone else who may be interested. If you are interested, please reply to this email and let me know so I can start a list. You may also give my contact information to others if they have questions.

Thank You,
Shannon Turner

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