

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is Making Changes to the Children's DDD CARE-Assessment

All DDD CARE reassessments for children receiving personal care are postponed until new rules are adopted and the revised CARE assessment for children is implemented.

Why are we postponing reassessments, changing the rules and updating the DDD CARE assessment for your child?

- In May 2011 the Washington Supreme Court held that DSHS rules related to the authorization of personal care services for children did not comply with federal Medicaid law. The Court held that DSHS could not make automatic adjustments to the number of personal care hours it authorizes for children based on a child's age or the availability of a legally responsible parent. Instead adjustments must be based on individualized assessments or the opportunity to demonstrate unique family circumstances.
- DSHS is taking all reasonable steps necessary to implement the Supreme Court's decision as quickly as possible. DDD is programming and testing the changes to the children's CARE assessment that must be made. In addition, policy is being updated and training of staff is being scheduled.

When will the new assessment and rules be ready?

The new assessment is scheduled to be implemented when the new rules are scheduled to go into effect on December 15, 2011.

What if my child's assessment is due before December 15th, will someone contact me to let me know what to expect?

Your case manager will contact you to make sure there have been no significant changes in your child's condition before postponing your child's DDD assessment. If there has been a significant change the case manager will do a reassessment using the current DDD assessment. Your child would then be reassessed between December 15, 2011 and June 30, 2012 using the new assessment.

What if my child has a change in his/her condition before December 15, 2011?

Case managers will continue to use the current DDD assessment for children when you report a significant change in your child's condition. Children will then be reassessed using the new assessment for personal care between December 15, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

What if my child has not yet been assessed for personal care?

Case managers will continue to administer the current care assessment for children when there is a new request for personal care services. Children will then

be reassessed between December 15, 2011 and June 30, 2012 using the new assessment for personal care.

What if my child is reassessed before December 15th and the identified plan of care still does not meet my child's care needs?

Case managers will follow current policy for requesting an Exception to Rule if the plan of care creates significant health or safety issues or will result in placement in a more restrictive setting.

Will the new assessment increase the number of personal care hours my child will receive?

The new assessment may or may not result in a change in personal care hours. Each child will be individually assessed.

After December 15, 2011, will my assigned case manager conduct my child's new assessment?

Your child's assigned case manager may or may not conduct the new assessment. All assessments must be completed in a six month window and may require additional assistance from other trained assessors to complete the assessments in a timely manner.

If I have any questions, who should I call?

Contact your case manager if you need additional information. Also, the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is a valuable source of current information: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/informingfamilies/>