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DIVISION & PROGRAM DIRECTOR
DEVELOPMENTAL & BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS

Policy Update DBP Referrals

DATE: 02/1/2023

Dear Primary Care Clinician (PCC),

Thank you for collaborating with the Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) department at Boston Medical Center in providing care to your patients. There is a policy change as of Feb 1, 2023: please review the following document before making the referral to improve patient care and timeliness of the evaluation process and/or follow-up care.

Who we commonly evaluate at DBP (0-22 years):

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Global developmental delay (GDD) (<age 5) and intellectual disability (ID)
- Learning disability (LD)
- Speech and language development delay (SLDD)
- Anxiety disorders

Second opinions: we are currently not providing these.

Follow-up care: for an existing diagnosis not provided by the diagnosing facility. Provide diagnostic report in your referral and reason for follow-up care.

MANDATORY referral documentation for initial referral

Send the following with the referral:

- Encounter note that prompted referral
- Results of validated autism screening tool: *MCHAT, STAT, PEDS, POSI, CSBS, ASQ* (if applicable for ASD concern)
- Results of validated ADHD screening tool: *Vanderbilt, etc.* (if applicable for ADHD concern)
- Current **IFSP** Individual Family Service Plan (Early Intervention agency) **OR** contact information for current EI clinician **AND/OR** current **IEP** Individual Education Plan **OR 504 plan** (School setting) **OR** reason for no IEP/IFSP/504 plan
- Other consultant reports (Speech and language, neurology, Behavior Health) (if applicable)
- Current hearing and vision results
- Original diagnostic report if seeking follow-up care

Send all the requested information via fax: (617)-414-3661.

When scheduling a patient we will make 2 attempts at contact to book an appointment. If we do not reach them they will be removed from the wait list and the referral will be closed.

Supporting patients whilst waiting for DBP evaluation:

Due to high referral rates, whilst patients are waiting for an evaluation we recommend you support them with the following:

If your patient is under age of the 3: refer to their local Early Intervention (EI) agency if they are not currently enrolled in EI: <https://www.massfamilyties.org/#EI>

If your patient is 3 years or older and not yet enrolled in school: assist the family with requesting a special education evaluation through their public school system. Having a child evaluated by their school system is an imperative and time-sensitive step. The following link will provide you with useful information for requesting a special education evaluation that can be used to advocate for your patient and provided to parents/caregivers. The following link is for Boston schools but is applicable to other school districts: [ABCDpacket_2019.pdf \(bmc.org\)](#)

If your patient is 3 years or older and already enrolled in school: ensure they have received a special education evaluation and are receiving all services that they are deemed eligible for through an IEP or a 504 plan.

If your patient is in need of behavioral health/therapy services: we recommend making a referral to psychiatry and ensuring your patient receives appropriate behavioral health supports. If your patient has MassHealth, and would benefit from in-home or outpatient therapy services, please make a referral by using the following search engines:

In-home therapy: <https://www.mabhaccess.com/Search.aspx>

Outpatient therapy: <https://massachusetts.networkofcare.org/mh/index.aspx>

Community behavioral health centers: [Community Behavioral Health Centers | Mass.gov](#)

Consider making a **Behavioral Health Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** with the following resources:

Immediate in-home response: <https://www.mass.gov/emergencycrisis-services>, visit the emergency room or call 911 if you feel your child is at risk of hurting themselves or others.

Thank you for attending to these tasks and collaborating with us to support your patients whilst they wait for an evaluation by the DBP service. If you have any questions regarding the policy change, please call us at (617)-414-7418 or (617)-414-7947 or email augustyn@bu.edu.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Augustyn

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Boston Medical Center