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Eligibility in Texas: Early Childhood Intervention

Feb. 8, 2019

Learning Objectives



- Be familiar with Texas Administrative Code for ECI eligibility in Texas.
- List the three types of eligibility.
- Review the automatic qualifiers.
- Understand how to refer to ECI.
- Be aware of the complaint process.



What Is ECI?

Early Childhood Intervention

- A statewide program that provides support and services to families with children, from birth to 36 months, with developmental delays or disabilities
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C program through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
- Statewide coverage to all eligible children
- Provides an array of services including — but not limited to — therapy, specialized skills training, case management and transition



Texas Administrative Code: Eligibility



- TAC Title 40, Part 2, Chapter 108, Subchapter H
- Children under 36 months of age and residents of Texas
- All contractors in Texas must apply the same eligibility criteria



Types of Eligibility



- Documentation of a qualifying medical diagnosis with an identified need for services
- An auditory or visual impairment as defined by Texas Education Agency
- A developmental delay as determined by an evaluation using a standardized tool designated by HHS: the Battelle Developmental Inventory, Second Edition



Adjusted Age

Adjusting age for children born prematurely

- Adjusted for children born before 37 weeks gestation
- Based on a 40-week term
- Used until the child is 18 months old
- Cannot exceed an adjustment of 16 weeks



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Medically Diagnosed Conditions

What are some of the medically diagnosed conditions for automatic ECI eligibility?

- Extremely low birth weight (P07.01-P07.03)
- Intraventricular hemorrhage, grade 3 and 4 (P52.2)
- Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction (P96.1) and withdrawal symptoms from therapeutic use of drugs in newborn (P96.2)
- Congenital hypotonia (P94.2)
- Birth injuries to peripheral nervous system: Erb's paralysis, Klumpke's paralysis, other brachial plexus birth injuries (P14.0-P14.3)
- Spina bifida (Q05.0-Q05.9)
- Arnold-Chiari syndrome (Q07.0)



Searching for Diagnoses



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Early Childhood Intervention Services

ECI Qualifying Diagnosis Search

[BACK TO ECI HOME](#)

Search Eligible Codes

To search for medically qualifying diagnoses enter the name of the condition or diagnosis code in the search box below and hit search.
An auto-lookup feature will help you narrow your search results.

Browse Eligible Codes

Qualifying Diagnosis Codes have the following notation: < Q >
Click on the links below to drill down through all the medically qualifying diagnoses.

- [\(A00-B99\) - Certain infectious and parasitic diseases](#)
- [\(C00-D49\) - Neoplasms](#)
- [\(D50-D89\) - Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism](#)
- [\(E00-E89\) - Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases](#)
- [\(F01-F99\) - Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental disorders](#)
- [\(G00-G99\) - Diseases of the nervous system](#)
- [\(H00-H59\) - Diseases of the eye and adnexa](#)
- [\(I00-I99\) - Diseases of the circulatory system](#)
- [\(K00-K95\) - Diseases of the digestive system](#)

<https://diagsearch.hhsc.state.tx.us>

Auditory or Visual Impairment

- A child who has an auditory or visual impairment as defined by the Texas Education Agency qualifies for ECI.
- This is determined by a team that includes certified staff from your local independent school district.

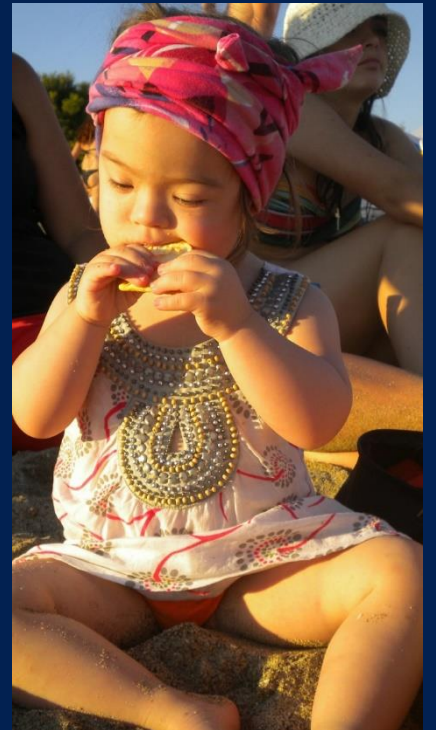


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Developmental Delay

- Developmental delay: A child who has a developmental delay of at least 25 percent in one or more domain (using BDI-2)
 - If the delay is in expressive language only, the delay must be at least 33 percent
- Qualitative determination of delay (QDD)
 - Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)
 - Same percentages apply



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How to Refer to ECI



Anyone can refer a child to ECI

- Use the "ECI Program Search" at <https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/> to locate the program in your area.
- Call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999, choose a language and then select option 3.
- Submit an online request to the Office of the Ombudsman. Include your ZIP code, county or city to help identify your local ECI program.



Physicians Referring to ECI

- The ECI Referral Form is available on the Texas Pediatric Society website at <https://txpeds.org/eci>.
 - Send medical record including any diagnosis, hearing or vision loss, and/or any screenings you may have completed; or
 - Call or fax concerns to your local ECI program; or
 - Send the referral with the parent and provide the parent with the local ECI provider information.
- Federal regulations require professionals to refer to ECI



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Complaints



If you don't agree with eligibility determination, you can contact:

- The local program that completed evaluation; or
- HHS ECI program office at 512-776-4300; or
- HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999.



Texas WIC

WIC and NICU can work together

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program that assists pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women and children up to age 5. Clients get help with eating well, learning about nutrition and staying healthy.



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Smart Choices • Healthy Families

WIC Services

- Nutrition assessment and education
- Nutritious foods
- Breastfeeding support
- Breast pumps – including hospital grade pumps to establish a milk supply
- Infant formula when needed
- Immunization assessment
- Counseling with registered dietitians to monitor growth



WIC Services

- Referrals to:
 - Health providers
 - Medicaid/SNAP/Texas Health Steps
 - Community resources



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Statewide Lactation Support Resources

- Support for all families regardless of income, not only WIC Clients
- WIC lactation resource and training centers
 - Lactation Foundation, Houston
 - Lactation Care Center, Dallas
 - Mom's Place, Austin
 - Lactation Care Center of Rio Grande Valley, McAllen
 - Lactation Care Center, San Antonio
- Texas Lactation Support Helpline: 855-550-6667, available 24/7
- TexasWIC.org



How Do I Refer a Mom to WIC?

For client questions:

- 800-WIC-FORU
(800-942-3678)
- [TexasWIC.org](https://www.texaswic.org)



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Questions?



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Thank You

Carol Baisdon, OTR, Quality Assurance Therapist Consultant
Early Childhood Intervention

Email: carol.baisdon@hhsc.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-776-4323