

Expanded Time Frame for OASIS Implementation In an ongoing effort to ensure the needs of Indiana’s waiver recipients continue to be the priority, the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (a department of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration), who administers the Medicaid waiver program, is enhancing the time frame for the implementation of the OASIS initiative. The expansion of this time frame provides for additional developments within the initiative that ensure allocations are working to best meet Consumer needs.

The extended time frame provides for a number of changes that benefit all Indiana waiver recipients, including the more than 11,000 Hoosiers receiving an Autism, Developmental Disabilities, or Support Services Waiver advocated for and supported by IPMG.

Augmentations to the OASIS initiative, such as an extension of the implementation schedule, allow for feedback from those who support Indiana’s waiver recipients to directly enrich the initiative—a reflection of the close relationship the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) has with IPMG and Indiana’s service provider and advocacy communities.

The enhanced time frame provides an opportunity for several beneficial events to occur:

- More time for the new OASIS process to better define the needs and goals of every Consumer, not just a sample group
- More time for results to be received by an outcome reporting system, which will provide a richer, more accurate base for measuring results
- A greater opportunity for the provider community to understand and utilize Consumer goal reporting mechanisms
- Improved implementation of the online reporting system, including increased availability for IPMG Case Managers to harness the power of IPMG’s Consumer Outcome Measurement Tool (COMT) as they work to best develop and track solutions that ensure Consumer outcomes are met
- Closer evaluation to confirm ICAP and supporting assessments are as accurate as possible

DDRS and IPMG are working collaboratively with the state’s service provider and advocacy communities to maximize the effectiveness of each Consumer’s waiver dollars as we move those we serve toward more meaningful lives. The enhanced time frame for the OASIS initiative enables further refinement of the processes used to ensure each waiver allocation is focused on the vision and needs each Consumer has for his or her life.

Transition Plans

Under the umbrella of this new time frame, IPMG case management professionals will move ahead with development of transition plans for this interim with the OASIS program. Implementation of OASIS allocation budgets is to be postponed until further notice from DDRS.

When working to develop an interim plan for a waiver recipient, IPMG case management professionals will note the following information:

- Transition plans will cover only the interim period.
- The deadline for submitting annual plans (also known as Cost Comparison Budgets or CCBs) will be adjusted from the 19th of every month to the last Friday of every month, allowing more time for preparation and completion. IPMG Case Managers must submit annual plans no later than two days before the last Friday of each month.

These adjustments allow teams to compile budgets that best support the Consumer’s needs, while ensuring the development and enrichment of the OASIS initiative continues to move forward.

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Advocacy

IPMG case management professionals serve as the primary advocates for waiver recipients. The needs and privacy of each Consumer are paramount, and IPMG case management professionals will continue to follow HIPAA guidelines and IPMG protocols for the release of any and all Consumer information. Strict confidentiality and respect for the Consumer continues to be a guiding principle for all IPMG professionals as IPMG supports individuals to successfully meet their needs, achieve their dreams, and thrive in their communities.

New and Improved Systems

New and improved systems currently under development will improve the transparency of the OASIS process and make it easier for all parties to access key information. These systems will:

- streamline information gathering for IPMG case management professionals and service providers
- implement needed analysis systems, resulting in a more refined view of the strengths and weaknesses within the process
- further incorporate the Cost Comparison Budget (CCB), the health and safety indicator (HSI), and the person-centered description (PCD) for a more robust budget-compared-to-needs tool.

Additional system components will specifically address input regarding information accessibility. To confirm ICAP and supporting assessments are as accurate as possible, DDRS is completing a system to print ICAP and ICAP addendum information.

Additional enhancements involving the ICAP assessment:

- ICAP and OASIS addendum question information will be available for all team members.
- IPMG Case Managers will supply ICAP and ICAP addendum information to team members for confirmation and/or correction.

OASIS Review and BMR Processes

The OASIS review process is designed to surface inconsistencies in the underlying assessment information. The OASIS review process remains available and is expanded so that it can be requested by any interested party, including the Consumer, a provider, or another team member.

In addition to the current reasons that warrant a request for a review, additional or expanded categories that support the need for an OASIS review will be developed. These categories will be designed to address important considerations, such as health and safety concerns, excessive budget amounts, and a general “other” category for addressing additional concerns, which will require a detailed explanation. Once released, the new health and safety indicator (HSI) will be required when an OASIS review is requested under specified circumstances.

The Budget Modification Request (BMR) process remains available to address situations where health and safety concerns are present. A BMR is available for unanticipated, short-term situations. BMRs will be generated by IPMG Case Managers. Pre-determined information supporting the BMR request will be required, and must be submitted along with the request. Each initial event may be approved for up to 90 days. If short-term support is still required, additional BMRs can be submitted each month, not to exceed 180 days from the initial event.

Bringing More Hoosiers onto the Waiver Program

OASIS allocations remain a sound and beneficial approach for new Consumers. As the OASIS initiative continues to transform Indiana’s waiver program to ensure fair and equitable allocations for all, DDRS retains its enduring commitment to bring more people onto the waiver program. IPMG’s intake process continues to be successful in providing Hoosiers with the support needed to meet their needs and achieve their goals. During the past six months, more than 500 individuals have become new waiver recipients and started receiving support services. Since September 2006, more than 2,800 individuals have become new waiver recipients and started receiving services.

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important updates

3/23/09



Resources and Additional Information

More information will be provided to all Consumers through their IPMG Case Manager, as made available from the State of Indiana. DDRS will release BDDS Bulletins and detailed communication regarding OASIS and allocations in the near future.

IPMG's website, www.gotoipmg.com, is a rich resource for updated information on OASIS and other important initiatives and updates.

IPMG is dedicated to supporting Consumers and keeping individuals informed of important updates pertaining to the OASIS initiative as it continues to adapt and improve the process on behalf of Indiana's waiver recipients. To view current information regarding the OASIS initiative, visit DDRS' website at www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2903.htm.