Mileage, Natural Environment Service Fee (NESF) and FL-EPIC NESF fee procedures.

Gulf Central and Southwest early steps.

Currently we only contract with providers who will provide services in the natural environment. We have a very large region to cover and in order to be as competitive as possible with the clinical setting we pay our providers the following.

1. **Mileage Reimbursement:** We reimburse all mileage to the natural environment at the state rate and in accordance with the state travel reimbursement guidelines. All providers staff and contracted must submit the state form "DFS-AA-15Voucher for reimbursement" with all mileage claims recorded on the form. However, if a contracted provider drives to a visit and the family is a no show there is no reimbursement to the contracted provider and the travel can not be reimbursed. Travel is verified using the session log submitted by the provider to ensure a corresponding session in the natural environment was completed by the provider before we issue reimbursement. All travel claimed in relation to services provided to children is entered into the UF data system, and due to the downward rounding of individual trips there is often a discrepancy between the amount reported on the travel voucher and the amount reported in UF. We pay the amount reported from UF which is the lower total.

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2. **Natural Environment Support Fee (NESF):** We pay the NESF fee (now \$12 rate) to all providers for services delivered in the natural environment with caregiver and child present. This includes evaluations, consultations and therapy and EIIF sessions in the natural environment. It does not include telehealth services.

Required documentation

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- 3. **NESF (EPIC fee level):** We pay the EPIC fee level NESF for providers who are qualified, for services delivered in the natural environment with caregiver and child present (as described in bullet number 2).
 - a. The criteria used to determine eligibility for the FL-EPIC level NESF fee is:
 - i. Completion of the EPIC workshop
 - ii. Completion of 6 coaching video sessions
 - iii. Completion of 6 PD sessions

Note: We initially notified our providers they would qualify for the EPIC rate if they had completed the workshop, 3 coaching sessions and 3 PD sessions. When the guidance changed we notified the providers they had three months to meet the new 6 session requirements or the EPIC level fee would be withdrawn until the new qualifications were met.

- b. To track the qualification of the providers for the EPIC fee the dates for the completion of the workshop, coaching sessions and attendance at the PD is recorded in the fl-epic coaches records. The Fl-EPIC coach notifies the Professional Development Coordinator (PDCC) when the provider meets the criteria and the PDCC updates the UF data system so the new fee can be applied.
- c. The number of providers expected to qualify for this fee is 65 and the average caseload of our providers is 28.

Required documentation:

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