

Educational Audiology Meeting 9/20/16

Introductions were made. Lisa asked educational audiologists to update and share the caseload divisions in larger school districts to support the clinical audiologists in finding the correct contact in the drop box folder on the Wikipage.

Volunteers are needed for Deaf Track & Field Day

Clinical providers shared information about their clinical facilities and services:

TCH: 9 locations, 26 auds, outpatient and inpatient services, CI Program (Main, Highlands Ranch, Colorado Springs locations), Bone Conduction Processor Program (Cochlear and Oticon Medical, no Sophono), Microtia/Atresia Clinic, loaner devices are available loaner agreement

University Hospital: Compass Clinic (multidisciplinary team), hearing aids, BAHAs (Cochlear and Oticon Medical), Cis, options for SSD, 3 locations: Main, Lone Tree, and Boulder

RM ENT: newer clinic diagnostics, hearing aids, sedated ABR

Kaiser: 8 locations, 29 auds- one lead pediatric audiologist at 6 locations, diagnostics, hearing aids, St. Joes & Sky Ridge Hospitals, CIs (surgeries done at Kaiser, programming done at TCH, RMCIC, and University until 18 years), BAHAs (Cochlear only), dx of HL automatically qualifies the child for 52/year speech pathology therapy sessions (can be contracted with local SLP).

Denver Health: diagnostics and hearing aids

Marion Downs: diagnostics, kids screen program (mostly at head start programs), summer preschool program, teen program

Communication:

TCH: secured emails including PDFs, EPIC system sends out reports via fax and mail, in the process of determining whether or not HIM must send out reports, consent given at TCH includes communication with educational audiologists, however REPORTS requires a 2nd authorization which managing audiologist will attempt to obtain, if a parent calls over the phone and gets verbal consent then reports can be sent, can use your district's release form or can use TCH's release form, releases are generally good for one year, best practice is to contact the managing audiologist if you need a report

Kaiser: would also accept outside release of records forms, but using Kaiser's form will go more quickly, release is good for one year

Scheduling issues related to insurance or lack thereof:

Kaiser: one centralized department phone number for scheduling diagnostics or hearing aid appointments Spanish speaking personnel available, Kaiser Insurance and Medicaid, most (90ish %) of kids with Kaiser are eligible for HA coverage, appointments available within 8 days (target)

Marion Downs: Medicaid and multiple insurances, sliding scale available, appointments generally available within a week

University: most insurances accepted, will service uninsured, Spanish speaking providers available, CI users can get an appointment within 1-2 days if they are off of the air, staff member identified to support families in communicating with manufacturers if they aren't comfortable contacting manufacturer directly

TCH: most insurances accepted (increasing number of insurers are excluding CIs), financial counseling available to help identify funding, prioritize appointments for newborn diagnostics, Spanish speaking schedulers available at common scheduling number, Spanish service providers and interpreters, established clients who have an urgent need can contact provider directly, CI and BAHA users are encouraged to contact manufacturers directly for equipment/parts needed

Denver Health: new patients must call main number to get an appointment, if an established patient has an urgent need call the clinic directly, Spanish speakers available, all insurances are accepted, will work to provide funding resources to those without HA coverage, non-urgent appointments available within 1-2 weeks.

RM ENT: accepts all insurers (except Kaiser and Denver Health), one phone number for all needs, Spanish speaking staff available

Resources for underinsured or uninsured: HEAR Project, United Healthcare Children's Foundation, Scottish Right Foundation, Mandy Project, Friends of Man, 1st Hand Foundation (Funding Resource List will be shared)

HA Battery Funding: Medicaid families can receive 96 batteries/year, a box of batteries provided at fitting, if they need more they can be obtained (can be mailed)

Battery Info:

- BAHA users need the 4 hole batteries in order to support FM use
- HA users need the premium (increased voltage) batteries to support FM use
- 5 minute rule & bounce test

SSD decisions: BAHA vs. CROS vs. unaided, speech in noise testing is important in decision making process.

HA manufacturer selection process: can depend on features, ease of use, at least a 30 day return window which can be extended up to 90 days (in most cases), typically use Phonak and Oticon, may see more Resound, in CI manufacturing remember that Advanced Bionics and Phonak and Cochlear and Resound are teaming.

Assessment protocols, periodicity:

TCH: Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Guidelines, Pediatric Amplification Guidelines, Recorded LINGs for validation, Outcome measures: PEACH & Little Ears, CI Minimum Speech Test Battery, all recorded materials

All sites conferred.

If educational audiologist has verification or outcome measures, how would clinical audiologists like educational audiologists to communicate with clinics. Emails with screenshots are great. FLE results are welcome. Ed audiologists are encouraged to change programs to accommodate hearing assistive technology use in the school (just send a heads up email to let the clinical audiologist know of the change).

Cochlear Implant Practices: Hybrids are now being used in pediatrics (older kids), bi-modal fittings are increasing, candidacy has expanded to include more kids (new guidelines released a few days ago), SSD fittings are happening (not FDA approved) and will start coming. Freedom will become obsolete at end of 2016.

BAHA Practices: 5 and under= soft band device, 5 and up consideration for implant, Medicaid does cover soft band fittings, FDA guidelines followed, and guidelines are being developed to work through process of identifying when to implant. BAHA 3 will become obsolete at end of 2016. BAHA 5 has 3 levels: 5, 5 power, 5 super power.

HA, CI, BAHA accessories: streamers are offered if families cannot afford personal FM, teenagers like streaming options