

## HOW TO MAKE BEST USE OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

In a Well-Visit, be sure to ask if families have needs in any of the following areas. The *Note to provider* suggest a starting point to find information in the Family TIES Resource Directory and refers you to some other resources.

### Home Health

- What types of home health services does your child receive (skilled nursing, PCA)? Are there some needed which are not provided?
- Who provides these services? How often?
- Are these services enough?

*Note to provider: consult resource listings on Health Care*

### Respite

- Do you receive any respite (a break; a rest from direct childcare)? Who provides it?
- Are there any people available to help you with care for your child so that you can get a break?
- Is your family connected with the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to receive funds (when available) which can be used for childcare and equipment, etc.

*Note to provider: consult resource listings on State Agencies (DMR); Child Care Resource and Referral Network*

### Daycare

- Are you satisfied with the ability of daycare to work with your child?

*Note to provider: consult resource listings in Child Care Resource and Referral Network*

### Case Management/Care Coordination

- Do you have a Case Manager (through DPH; DMR; Mass Commission for the Blind; Mass Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing; other)?
- Do you receive any assistance in coordinating care for your child

*Note to provider: consult resource listings on State Agencies*

### Insurance/Financing

- How are you covering your medical expenses? Do you have/know about Commonwealth? SSI?
- Do you need any help with letters of medical necessity?
- Are you being covered by insurance for items like diapers Pediasure?

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**Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**

- What equipment does your child now use?
- Is there any other equipment you need now or expect to need in the near future?
- Does any of your equipment need replacement or repair?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Assistive Technology and Adaptive Equipment (Family TIES Resource Guide); If insurance will not cover the cost some state agencies may be able to help. Many organizations such as Rotary, Knights of Columbus and Lions will often help a family; contact Family TIES staff member for help in doing this.***

**Dental Issues**

- Do you have a dentist for your child?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Health Care***

**School**

- Is your child now, or did your child ever, participate in Early Intervention?
- Where does your child attend school?
- Which services (PT, OT, Speech, adaptive physical education, aide, nursing) does your child receive? Are you satisfied with these services?
- Have you been satisfied with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and planning process at the school?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Advocacy; Health Care; State Agencies***

**Transitions**

- Are you preparing for any major transitions for your child — from Early Intervention to school; from one school to another; from adolescence to adulthood?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings in State Agencies. See "Transition Planning for Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities" available for downloading at the website:***

***<http://www.childrenshospital.org/ici/publications/resources.html>***

**Recreation**

- What types of recreational programs does your child participate in?
- Does your child have an opportunity to attend camp or participate in a recreational program over the summer?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Advocacy; Camps; Recreation/Arts***

**Clothing**

- Do you need help finding specialized clothing -- shoes (e.g. to fit over braces), outerwear, helmets, clothing suited to g-tubes, wheelchairs?

***Note to provider: Try this web site to find suppliers:: [www.familyvillage.wisc.edu](http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu)***  
**Housing/Home Modifications**

- Is your housing situation meeting your child's healthcare needs?
- Are there any adaptations or equipment needed?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings in Housing Assistance; Adaptive Equipment and Assistive Technology.***

### **Transportation**

- Does your family have a handicapped placard or plate?
- Do you need any special assistance with transportation (e.g. PT 1 form completed if on Commonhealth)
- Have you ever had a need for specialized long-distance (i.e. air) transport to another medical facility?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Accessibility and Travel. Also most municipalities have some form of accessible bus service.***

### **Family Support**

- Are you involved in any support groups, as parents?
- How are the other children in your family doing? Do you think they could benefit from any programs for children who have a brother/sister with a special health care need?
- Would you like to be reaching out to other families in similar circumstances?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings on Respite and Family Support Programs; Resources for Specific Conditions and Disabilities; Community Support and Parent Networks***

### **Information**

- Would you like to have more information about your child's condition?
- Would you like to know about newsletters and other publications, which cover disability issues?
- Do you have access to the Internet? Would you like to know about disability-related web sites?

***Note to provider: Consult resources on Newsletters; Internet Resources; Information and Referral***

### **Special Opportunities**

- Are you aware of special programs available to families who have kids with special health care needs, such as Make a Wish Foundation, Starlight, Miracle Network, Children's Wish?

***Note to provider: consult resource listings in Community Support and Parent Networks***