The Medically Fragile Waiver

The Medically Fragile Waiver is a home and community-based waiver which is administered by DDSD with the DOH. This program provides funding and services for individuals who are both medically fragile and developmentally disabled to enable them to live in their homes with their families. These services may include: case management by an RN; private duty nursing by either an RN or LPN; home health aides; in-home respite; physical, speech and occupational therapy; and, behavioral therapy support, psychosocial (for recipient and/or family members) and nutritional counselling. Support continues for the lifespan of the person as long as the criteria of medical fragility and developmental disability continue to be met.

Eligibility:

- Diagnosed by age 22 with a condition that makes the individual medically fragile. A medically fragile person has, by definition, a condition that lasts for a long time and requires medically fragile care and requires in addition either a) frequent medical supervision, or b) treatment or c) dependence on medical equipment.
- Currently lives at home.
- The individual (as opposed to their family) meets income guidelines.

The Medically Fragile Case Management Program (MFCMP) at the UNM Center for Development and Disability, has provided RN case management/coordination services for children and their families around New Mexico for the past 28 years. A referral form for the Medically Fragile Waiver can be found on their website at:

http://cdd.unm.edu/mfcmp/pdfs/referralForm.pdf

The completed form can be faxed to (505) 272-8100. MFCMP can also be contacted by calling (505) 272-2910.

DDSD REGIONAL OFFICES CORNER:

The DDSD Regional Offices are a local resource to help find and access the many services and providers available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Office Locations/Regional Nurses:
- Metro Regional Office (MRO): 5301 Central Ave. NE Suite 1700 ABQ, NM 87108 800-283-5546
- NW Regional Office (NWRO): 2910 E. Highway 66 Gallup NM 87301 866-862-0446 Allison Byrnes, RN 505-326-5784
- NE Regional Office (NERO): 224 Cruz Alta Suite B Taos, NM 87575 866-315-7123 Judith Pierce, RN
- SW Regional Office (SWRO): 1170 N. Solano Dr. Suite G Las Cruces NM 88001-2369 866-742-5226 Randy S. Cahall, RN 505-528-5184 Dora Stewart, RN 505-528-5184
- SE Regional Office (SERO): 726 S. Sunset Suite B Roswell NM 88233 866-895-9138 Maria Sanders, RN 505-624-6100

http://nmhealth.org/about/ddsd/

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS:

- Autism and Neurophysiology
  October 22nd, 12:30-5:15 p.m., Luna Community College, Las Vegas, NM

- 16th Annual NM DDNA Conference
  October 24, 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
  @ CoC/AFRL

- No Skin Off My Back: Wound Prevention & Care in the I/DD Community
  November 14th, All day.
  @ CoC/AFRL

- Making the Most of your Doctor’s Visit
  Provisionally on December 6th

MEETINGS:

- DDMI TUG: (@ CoC & Telehealth)
  Second Monday of each month @ 12:00-1:30.

- DDMI Clinic
  Shiprock/Farmington, October 31st

- DDDT Clinical Call: (@ BOW)
  Second Tuesday of each month @ 9am Conference Call-in: 1-888-850-4523

- CCG Meetings
  October 20th, 1:30 p.m.
  December 15th, 1:30 p.m.

- HDR Meeting
  November 12th, 11:30 a.m.

- DDSD Regional meeting
  Provisionally on December 11th or 18th
The Adult Special Needs Clinic (ASNC) is an interdisciplinary consultative clinic for adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities. The TEASC Project and Continuum of Care collaborate to bring multiple disciplines together twice monthly to see individuals with complex medical, behavioral, and/or support system needs. The ASNC team includes providers in family medicine, psychiatry, neurology, neuropsychology, pharmacy, dental hygiene, and experts in support systems.

A person may be referred to ASNC for help with a number of issues. Common referral concerns include:

- Complex behavioral issues that may result from medical and/or psychiatric conditions;
- Assistance in understanding and navigating available adult support systems;
- Complex medical pictures that could benefit from transdisciplinary team evaluation.

Referrals may be made by the individual, their family or guardian, their interdisciplinary team, or one of their medical providers. Information, including current medical and psychiatric records, is requested with the referral. A phone interview with the referring party is completed before the evaluation to get a complete picture of the referral concerns. The evaluation meeting brings the individual, their family/guardian, and interdisciplinary team together with the ASNC team to discuss current concerns, as well as the individual’s strengths, in depth. A written report with recommendations is completed by the ASNC team after the evaluation, and there is follow up with the referring party to see if recommendations have been helpful or if more assistance may be needed.

To make a referral or just ask more questions, please contact Liz Donsbach, TEASC Project, at 505-272-5158.

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**MEDICAL TOPIC EXCERPT:**

**Title:** “Forward Head Posture and the Risk of Aspiration"

**Presenters:** Fran Dorman, PT MHS

*Head positioning*

Various head positions are suggested for different swallowing problems.

- Chin tuck or chin down “improves tongue base to pharyngeal wall contact, narrows the airway entrance, and puts the epiglottis closer to the posterior pharyngeal wall, thus improving airway protections.” Logemann, Rademaker, & Kahrilas, 1993

**Head positions**

- Chin down or chin tuck may be related to airway protection.
- In most studies there is little information about what chin down or chin tuck really means anatomically.

The NM SAFE program (Supports and Assessment for Feeding and Eating) conducts multidisciplinary team feeding evaluations of children and adults with developmental disabilities for the purpose of improving health and reducing the risk of aspiration.

For more information on the SAFE program please visit: http://coc.unm.edu/clinics/index.html

Also see ¡eNoticias!, Vol 1, No.2 featuring the SAFE clinic, at the archive link http://coc.unm.edu/resources/newsletter%20archive.html

For the full powerpoint presentation please go to: http://coc.unm.edu/training/presentations.html#featured

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**¡eNoticias!! Archive Link**

http://coc.unm.edu/resources/newsletter%20archive.html

Comments/suggestions/recommendations: email HSnow@unm.edu

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We are on the Web!

http://coc.unm.edu