Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII®)

ECSII ASSESSMENT TOOL

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AHCCCS REQUIREMENTS

Q1: How are AHCCCS and AACAP (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry working together to implement the ECSII)?

Q2: Which AHCCCS providers are required to conduct the ECSII?

Q3: Is there an electronic form available for the ECSII?

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Q6: What should be done if a parent or guardian does not want their child to participate in the ECSII assessment?

Q7: Who should providers contact if they have general questions about ECSII that are not answered within these FAQs?

AHCCCS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Q1: Is everyone required to take the ECSII training through AACAP, even if they have previously been trained in ECSII Administration?

Q2: Will there be enough training slots for everyone to complete the training?

Q3: If there is not an open training slot, are staff able to share or "double-up" to take the training when only one person has registered on the AACAP website?

ECSII ASSESSMENT TOOL

Q1: What is the Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII)?

A1: The ECSII is a standardized assessment tool designed to focus on determining intensity of need for infants and toddlers (ages 0-5). It can be an effective tool for early identification of infants and toddlers that are at the highest need for intervention. It helps to guide provision of initial and ongoing service planning, with a focus that takes into account the unique needs of infants and toddlers based on their rapid development.

Q2: What is the difference between the ECSII and the CALOCUS?

A2: The ECSII is for infants and toddlers birth through five years of age, whereas the CALOCUS is for children ages 6 to 18.

Q3: What ages are appropriate for use of the ECSII?

A3: The appropriate ages are children birth through five.

Q4: Will the ECSII be available in another language?

A4: At the present time, the ECSII is not available in another language.

Q5: Can the ECSII be used for any other ages outside of infants and toddlers, birth through five?

A5: No, the ECSII should not be utilized for children outside the clinically indicated ages.

Q6: Who can conduct the ECSII assessment?

A6: Any trained provider (Behavioral Health Professional/BHP, Behavioral Health Technician/BHT, PCP, specialty provider, etc.) working with children aged birth through five years of age.

Q7: How long does it take to conduct the ECSII assessment?

A7: The assessment takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the experience of the practitioners or staff (BHP, BHT, PCP, specialty provider, etc.) who is administering the ECSII.

Q8: Can the ECSII be used in integrated care settings?

A8: The ECSII can be used in any care setting if those administering the ECSII have been trained on its use.

Q9: How can the ECSII assessment help parents and/or caregivers that are receiving substance use services?

A9: Parents receiving treatment for their substance use needs may have infants and toddlers that have experienced early childhood trauma and neglect while their parents were using substances. As part of the parent's recovery process, it may be crucial for them to learn how to address the needs of their infants or toddlers that may have not been met during that time. The ECSII is a tool that focuses on the child and family through the child-caregiver relationship and caregiving environment (in addition to other important functional domains). Use of the ECSII through a standardized assessment process, offers a method to identify treatment that supports reduction of trauma to the child (via the caregiving relationship), while offering techniques to the parents/caregivers to optimize their caregiving relationship and enhance healthy development for their infant or toddler.

Q10: Is the ECSII required for Fee-for-Service (FFS) providers?

A10: The ECSII is not required to be used for FFS members including American Indian Health Plan (AIHP), Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHA), and Tribal Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS members). Regardless of whether the ECSII is used for FFS, coordination with AIHP, TRBHA, and Tribal ALTCS should take place.

Q11: What is the cost of the ECSII?

A11: Information on the cost for training, may be found on [AACAP's ECSII webpage](#) or by reaching out to [clinical@aacap.org](#).

Q12: How should providers bill for the ECSII?

A12: The ECSII meets definitional criteria as an assessment under contract and policy. Use the AHCCCS website (AHCCCS) for general resources, including the resources available under Medical Coding Resources, which has links to the Behavioral Health Services Matrix. AHCCCS Claims Clues, AMPM Policies (e.g., AMPM 220, AMPM 320-O), and current contract (Contract). Using national references, such as the current CPT Professional Code Book, is also recommended.

Q13: How can the ECSII Manual and tool be accessed, once the online training modules have been completed and the user has taken and passed their test?

A13: Each trainee has access to a "Resources" tab which contains a PDF of the entire ECSII manual which can be printed or downloaded. The manual is the "tool" in that it contains all the criteria and scoring sheet. The modules do include instructions on how to access the ECSII manual and other resources. For individuals administering the tool, it is acceptable to print any part of the

criteria and scoring sheets for their personal use when conducting the ECSII. Printed manuals are also available from the AACAP store for anyone who wants to have a hard copy as a reference. ECSII Manual (Purchase Option).

AHCCCS REQUIREMENTS

Q1: How are AHCCCS and AACAP (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry working together to implement the ECSII?

A1: AACAP is the developer and owner of the ECSII tool. During 2023,AHCCCS worked with them to allow complimentary access to the online ECSII training modules through AACAP's website and learning management system. However, due to grant funding restrictions, those interested in taking the ECSII training will need to outreach AACAP for information on discounted rates as an AHCCCS Medicaid health plan or provider within Arizona.

Q2: Which AHCCCS providers are required to conduct the ECSII?

A2: There is **not** a requirement for providers to conduct the ECSII. However, AHCCCS is encouraging providers to conduct the ECSII, given its utility for identifying the intensity of needs for infants and toddlers and because it is a tool that can be used in conjunction with the CALOCUS to identify needs for children ages birth to 18.

Q3: Is there an electronic form available for the ECSII?

A3: At this time, there is no electronic form and AACAP has **not** given permission for electronic format use. Any duplication of the ECSII form for EMR purposes would be a violation of copyright.

Q4: What is the process for integrating the ECSII into the provider's EHR?

A4: At this time, integration of the ECSII into the provider's EHR is **not** required. AACAP has allowed for use and storage of paper versions of the ECSII tool for all individuals who have completed the ECSII training. A paper version can be scanned and uploaded into a provider's EMR.

Q5: Does the ECSII Level of Care Score need to be entered into the DUGless?

A5: Not at this time. AHCCCS will provide updates should they become available.

Q6: What should be done if a parent or guardian does not want their child to participate in the ECSII assessment?

A6: Document the refusal in the clinical chart.

Q7: Who should providers contact if they have general questions about ECSII that are not answered within these FAQs?

A7: Please contact AACAP at clinical@aacap.org.

AHCCCS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Q1: Is everyone required to take the ECSII training through AACAP, even if they have previously been trained in ECSII Administration?

A1: No, given that the ECSII training is not required at this time.

Q2: Will there be enough training slots for everyone to complete the training?

A2: As of March of 2024 the contract between AACAP and AHCCCS which used funds from one of the many ARPA grants to provide complimentary access to online ECSII training came to an end. Going forward, individuals must purchase training on the instrument directly through AACAP.

Q3: If a provider wishes to purchase training slots on their own, are staff able to share or "double-up" to take the training when only one person has registered on the AACAP website?

A3: No. Each individual will issue only one certificate of completion under one registrant's name. Each individual must register and create their own profile. Two or more users MAY NOT share an account.

Q4: How can providers access the training?

A4: Please reach out to AACAP's ECSII webpage or Clinical@aacap.org

Q5: Who should providers contact if they need to retake the ECSII test?

A5: Please contact AACAP staff: Clinical@aacap.org.

Q6: Does our ECSII training follow us if we work for a different provider?

A6: Yes, the ECSII certificate of completion does follow the trainee. If they need to be reproduced for any reason, contact AACAP.

Q7: Will health plans have access to a roster of information on all provider staff who have successfully completed AACAP training for ECSII?

A7: Yes, this can be shared with the health plans.

Q8: Will those who have passed the test receive a training certificate?

A8: Yes.

Q9: How can the ECSII tool be utilized?

A9: In order to utilize the ECSII tool for use, it is necessary to complete the ECSII training, which is demonstrated by completion of the ECSII test.

Q10: Can individuals outside of Arizona take the ECSII Training?

A10: Individuals outside of Arizona may take the ECSII training if they are a licensed professional and serving members residing in Arizona.