



# Frequently Asked Questions for Physicians: Getting Started with Babies Can't Wait

See the BCW website for more detailed information on this topic: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/>

## **Who is eligible for Babies Can't Wait (BCW)?**

Children ages 0-36 months with developmental delays, developmental disabilities, and/or certain diagnosed disabling conditions that have a high probability of resulting in delays.

## **Who can make referrals to Babies Can't Wait?**

Anyone can make a referral to Babies Can't Wait, including but not limited to social workers, physicians, parents, childcare providers, teachers, and other pediatric clinicians.

## **Why should I make a referral to Babies Can't Wait?**

Research has shown that infants and toddlers with developmental delays, and/or diagnosed disabling conditions benefit from the services offered through each state's early intervention system. Families consistently report that supports offered through BCW (e.g., respite, linkages to community resources, etc.) enable them to better meet the developmental needs of their children.

## **How do I make a referral to Babies Can't Wait?**

Children 1<sup>st</sup> is the system point of entry for all Public Health programs for young children in Georgia. Referrals to Babies Can't Wait are made by mailing, faxing or emailing the completed Children 1<sup>st</sup> Screening and Referral Form to the Children 1<sup>st</sup> Coordinator in the district which serves the county in which the child resides. Referrals may also be made by telephone. A list of the Children 1<sup>st</sup> district offices and contact information may be accessed at:

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/childrenfirst/c1st.districtcoordinators.05.pdf>

## **Is there a cost to families for Babies Can't Wait services?**

Child find, evaluation and assessment activities, the development and monitoring of the individualized family service plan (IFSP), service coordination, transition planning, and assurances of procedural safeguards are provided at no cost to all families in Babies Can't Wait. Families are asked to pay for a portion of the cost of ongoing supports and services. This cost sharing may range from 0% to 100%. The percentage for which each family is responsible is determined by Babies Can't Wait and is based upon family size, family income, and other extraordinary costs related to the care of their child. Private insurance, Medicaid, Peach Care, Tricare, and Babies Can't Wait also may assist in covering the remainder of the costs.

## **What information will I receive from Babies Can't Wait?**

The local BCW offices will acknowledge receipt of each referral, in writing, within three (3) working days of receiving the referral. Each child's Babies Can't Wait service coordinator, with written parental consent, will provide copies of evaluation reports, eligibility documentation and the IFSP to the child's primary care physician within 15 working days of the evaluation, eligibility determination and/or IFSP meeting. Per federal regulations, Babies Can't Wait must have written permission from the parent in order to release any information from a child's Babies Can't Wait record to physicians, child care providers, and other agencies or programs.

## **What if I have more questions? Can I request a copy of the list of automatic eligibility diagnoses? What if I need more information on getting started with Babies Can't Wait?**

Contact your local Babies Can't Wait Early Intervention Coordinator, BCW Parent Educator or the State Babies Can't Wait office at 404-657-2726 or toll free at 888-651-8224. Or visit the Babies Can't Wait webpage periodically for updated information: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/>