

Supplemental Security Income FAQ for Providers

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can have a huge impact on families with a disabled child, providing up to \$841 per month for those who qualify. But many families who qualify are not receiving it. Partners For Kids is working with Centauri Health Solutions to help your eligible patient families navigate the complex application process and you, as a provider, may have an important role to play.

IDENTIFYING PATIENTS WHO MAY QUALIFY

How does a child qualify for SSI?

In general, a child may qualify as disabled if they have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment (including an emotional or learning problem) that results in marked and severe functional limitations, can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can expect to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. The family must also be experiencing financial challenges.

What are some examples of qualifying disabilities?

Refer to the Social Security Administration's complete listing of childhood impairments for a more comprehensive list: <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/ChildhoodListings.htm>. Below are some examples, listed by medical specialty.

- *All Specialties*: Legally blind or deaf
- *Neonatology*: Birth weight less than 1,200 grams, cerebral palsy with IQ less than 70
- *Gastroenterology*: G-tube for feeding
- *Hematology*: Sickle-cell disease, extreme anemia, coagulation defects, leukemia
- *Pulmonology*: Chronic asthmatic bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, lung transplant
- *Urology*: End-stage renal disease, chronic glomerulonephritis, hypertensive renal vascular disease
- *Cardiology*: Chronic heart failure, disorders of the veins or arteries (obstruction or aneurysm)
- *Psychiatry*: Schizophrenia
- *Infectious Disease*: AIDS/HIV
- *Genetic*: Down syndrome

Is ADHD, depression or asthma considered a qualifying disability?

Most often, no. However, a family who has a child with ADHD or depression can successfully apply when the family demonstrates that the diagnosis is preventing the child from completing age-appropriate activities and/or interfering with daily functioning. Chronicity and functional impairment may provide context that helps the application, for example, and ADHD functional impairment may include the inability of the child to complete entire days in school.

Another example is asthma. While asthma is not on the qualifying disability list, chronic asthmatic bronchitis is. It is still worth referring to Centauri for more thorough screening to determine if the patient is eligible.

If my patient is enrolled in Partners For Kids, does that mean that they automatically meet the financial requirements?

No. It is possible for a family to qualify for Medicaid but not qualify for SSI due to excess assets or income. It is best for the member to connect with Centauri and work through the income and asset test with their assistance.

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REFERRING PATIENTS

Can I receive a list of patients that Partners For Kids/Centauri have already identified as potentially eligible for SSI?

In most cases, the answer is yes. We are working on a potential SSI “flag” in Epic, but in the meantime, please email SSI@NationwideChildrens.org for a list of patients who are associated with your clinic (through previous or upcoming visits) and have been identified through claims data as potentially eligible.

How can I refer a patient family to see if they are eligible for SSI?

1. Place a Referral Order via Epic to Dayton Children’s Hospital’s Financial Counselors. (See attached instructions on how to complete the referral order in Epic.)
2. Place a Referral Order to Partners For Kids Care Navigation. (See attached instructions on referrals to Partners For Kids Care Navigation). Please note that if a member does not need or want Care Navigation, the family should be referred to Dayton Children’s Financial Counselors.
3. Call Centauri at 866-879-0988. It is preferred for you to assist the patient family with the initial call, but the patient family may also call Centauri on their own.
4. Fax the referral to Partners For Kids at (614) 938-8515. (See attached fax referral form)

If my patient’s family request a referral, is it my responsibility to make sure they qualify?

No. While it may be helpful to discuss qualifying conditions with the family, anyone who wishes to be referred can be.

What time commitment will the SSI referral require from me (the provider)?

We are aware that providers are overburdened already and want to make referrals as easy as possible. Providing the referral and sharing the patient’s medical chart should be all that is necessary. Centauri has the responsibility for paperwork and appeals after their initial meeting with the patient’s family. Your feedback will be important to let us know if that is happening. Please email SSI@NationwideChildrens.org with any feedback.

For additional questions, contact
SSI@NationwideChildrens.org

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