

Birth to 3 Years Old

Similarities in Physical Therapy Services



- May Use Medicaid Dollars
- Evaluate an infant/toddler's development in the areas of large motor skills
- Use a variety of interventions to enhance an infant/toddler's performance
- May be provided in the home or community
- Use a family centered approach to address the needs of both the family and the infant/toddler.
- Perceive the family as the most essential member of the team

Differences in Physical Therapy Services

Early ACCESS – Physical Therapy

Eligibility:

In order to be eligible for Part-C-Early ACCESS services an infant/toddler must have a 25%, or more delay or a known condition, based on informed, clinical opinion that has a high probability of later developmental delay. This delay or probability of delay then must also warrant the need for physical therapy services.

Cost:

Services are available at no cost to the families, and services are documented on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Location:

Services must be provided in natural environments (those places where typically developing children are located).

Evaluation Procedure:

The physical therapist evaluates the infant/toddler's performance using developmental evaluations and through observation and assessment in the natural environment.

Service Determination:

The IFSP team, which includes the parents and the physical therapist, determines the infant/toddler's and the family's needs and priorities. The IFSP team establishes the outcomes and services necessary to meet the infant/toddler's and family's needs.

Focus:

The primary role of the Early ACCESS physical therapist is to work with the family and caregivers to enhance their ability to care for their infant/ toddler within the home and community as it relates to the development of the infant or toddler's movement skills.

Hospital & Community Services

Eligibility:

A medical-based or treatment based diagnosis or impairment must be documented. A physician's referral may be needed. Some agencies may have established criteria regarding the amount, frequency, and duration of physical therapy services.

Cost:

Services are paid through insurance, private pay, waiver, or grants.

Location:

Services are provided in the clinic or home setting.

Evaluation Procedure:

The physical therapist evaluates the infant/ toddler using various assessment tools that focus on areas of impairment (e.g. strength, balance, and joint mobility).

Service Determination:

The physical therapist with the family determines the areas to address and the priorities. The physical therapist collaborates with the family to write functional treatment goals.

Focus:

The primary focus of the physical therapist is to work with the child and family to attain treatment goals to enhance performance at home and in the community. This may include training the family in a home program.