

Provider Authorization Request Tips for Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy

All speech therapy (ST), occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) requests are reviewed by CalOptima staff to determine medical necessity based on Medi-Cal guidelines.

To facilitate timely reviews, submit the following clinical information with requests for ST, OT and PT services:

- 1) Requests for Initial Evaluation:
 - a. Rationale for services
 - b. Intensity, frequency and duration of services requested
 - c. Medi-Cal code for services requested
 - d. Referral or prescription signed by primary care provider (PCP)
 - e. Legible report, which includes:
 - i. Assessment, including diagnosis supported by standardized and non-standardized assessments
 - ii. Treatment planning, including goals (functionally meaningful, specific, measurable) and timeline including a home program
 - iii. Intensity, frequency duration of service request
 - iv. Care coordination with PCP, local educational agency (LEA), applied behavioral analysis (ABA), and medical therapy program (MTP), if applicable.
 - v. Date next re-evaluation

- 2) Requests for Ongoing Services:
 - a. Rationale for continuing services
 - b. Intensity, frequency and duration of services requested
 - c. Medi-Cal code for services requested
 - d. Legible progress report of the last authorization period (not daily note)
 - e. Attendance, including number of sessions attended and number of sessions authorized
 - f. Goals: met, not met, and/or ongoing
 - i. Re-eval — state standardized assessment results
 - ii. Clear evidence of functionally meaningful and measurable changes consistent with progress documented by objective data on progress toward functional goals with comparison to prior assessments
 - g. Ongoing and/or new goals and timeline
 - h. Home programs
 - i. Care coordination with PCP, LEA, ABA, and MTP, if applicable
 - j. Transition plan of services
 - k. Date of next re-evaluation

“For additional help, refer to Medi-Cal Provider Manual, Part 2, Speech Therapy.”

<https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/Publications/masters-MTP/Part2/speech.pdf>