**CURRENT DESCRIPTION OF OT**

**Service Description**

Occupational therapy includes services to address the functional needs of a child related to adaptive development; adaptive behavior, restoration, and play; and sensory, motor, and postural development. These services are designed to improve the child’s functional ability to perform tasks in home, child care, and community settings and include:

1. Evaluation, assessment, and intervention (global evaluation not acceptable);

2. Adaptation of the environment and selection, design and fabrication of assistive and orthotic devices to facilitate development and promote the acquisition of functional skills, and

3. Prevention or minimization of the impact of initial or future impairment, delay in development, or loss of functional ability.

Activities also include IFSP development, assistive technology assessment if needed, and environmental consultation to ensure that appropriate adaptations and safety issues for the eligible child are incorporated.

Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of a child eligible for services in understanding the *special needs of the child* as related to occupational therapy services and enhancing the child’s development are integral to this service. For family training, education and support, the eligible child is not required to be present but may be if appropriate. Family training, education and support may include such services as support groups, individual support and other training or education for the family.

**NOTE**: EI does not pay for therapeutic services required due to, or as part of, a medical procedure, a medical intervention or an injury. Acute rehabilitative therapy and therapy required as part of a medical procedure, medical intervention or injury, is not developmentally-based but is medically-based. Once the condition has become chronic or sub-acute the therapy for the on-going developmental delay can be provided by EI.

Services must be consistent with the provider’s qualifications and licensure.

**Qualified Staff**

1. System enrolled Specialist credentialed as:

a. Licensed Occupational Therapist

2. Non-enrolled Associate-Level provider credentialed as:

a. Licensed Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (See detailed requirements within Chapter 3, Associates/Assistants)

**Billable Activities with Authorization**

Evaluation/Assessment, IFSP development, (See Chapter 6) and direct service.

**NOTE**: Bill for time required to develop assistive technology requests using IFSP development code.

**Do not provide services without having an authorization in hand. Services provided without a pre-approved authorization are not guaranteed for payment.**

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

**Service Description**

Occupational therapy services support a child and family’s meaningful participation in purposeful occupations. Infants and toddlers engage in occupations including self-care (e.g., eating, dressing), rest and sleep, play, social participation, and education (e.g., pre-literacy, adaptive, cognitive, communication, physical, social and emotional development). Co-occupations are especially important for infants and toddlers and their families. Co-occupations are occupations or activities that are shared between children, family members, peers and other adults, and implicitly involve two or more individuals. Examples of cooccupations include feeding and eating, caregiver-child play, dressing, bathing, and hygiene. The occupational therapy process is the client-centered delivery of occupational therapy services. The three-part process occurs within the purview of the occupational therapy domain and includes

(1) evaluation,

(2) intervention

(3) targeted outcomes