

Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center

Medical Therapies Service Standard

Approved by the Board of Directors on 1/27/10
(Approval pending from the Department of Developmental Services)

Medical therapy services are occupational, physical, and speech and language services intended to address significant deficits in areas of fine motor, gross motor, and language development. Medical therapy services are necessary to improve the level of functioning or prevent deterioration in specific areas. These services are provided by or under the supervision of a licensed clinical professional. They are typically provided 1 – 2 times per week and are time-limited.

The Regional Center may purchase medical therapy services once the family has exhausted all generic sources of payment, including the education authority, Medi-Cal, California Children's Services, and other public or private third party insurance. Families who are eligible for any of these programs must provide documented evidence that the requested services are not available from the generic source

A determination of the necessity for medical therapy services is based on an independent assessment completed by a licensed professional specializing in the therapy. If services are found to be necessary, the professional develops a service plan that identifies goals and objectives with timelines, measurable outcomes, level of service, and how parents will be involved. The parents are expected to participate in therapeutic activities in the home between therapy sessions.

A number of recreational activities, such as music and drama, horseback riding, and gymnastics, are sometimes presented as having therapeutic benefit. The Regional Center is prohibited from purchasing such services.

For children under the age of 3, federal law requires the regional center to purchase a necessary medical therapy if the use of the family's private insurance would result in a delay in the provision of those services. The regional center's obligation to purchase the service ends at the time the service is available through the health plan.

For children over the age of 3, the education authority is responsible for providing medical therapy services as part of the Individual Educational Program (IEP), including during school breaks if the child will experience deterioration in functioning during those periods. The regional center may authorize services to address goals in the family home.

Termination of services: Services are terminated when the child has achieved the goals specified in the service plan, an independent evaluation determines that the child is not likely to benefit from additional services, or the child becomes eligible for another funding source.