



TITLE: Speech and Language Therapy

DOCUMENT: Service Standard

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Speech and language therapy services are intended to address significant deficits in speech or language development and are necessary to improve the level of functioning or prevent deterioration in this functional area. Services are typically provided 1-2 times per week, but the frequency and duration are based on an assessment of need. These services may include the use of augmentative and assistive technologies.

The Regional Center may purchase speech and language therapy services once the family has exhausted all generic sources of payment, including the school district, 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 evidence that the requested service is not available from the generic source.

A determination of the necessity for speech therapy services is based on an assessment completed by a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist. 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 implement practice activities in the home between therapy sessions.

For children under the age of 3, federal law requires the regional center to purchase necessary speech and language 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 school district is responsible for providing speech and language therapy services as part of the Individual Educational Program, including during school breaks if the child will experience deterioration in functioning during those periods. If the

school district fails to provide necessary services, the family is expected to exhaust all other generic sources of support before the regional center will purchase these services.

For individuals over the age of 22, the Regional Center may purchase speech services only for rehabilitative purposes if they are not available through a generic resource.

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