

North Beaches Early Steps (NBES) - Provider Types & General Information

Early Steps & Medicaid Core Principles

- **Target Population:** Early intervention services provide family-centered support to meet the developmental needs of eligible infants and toddlers (birth to age three) with a developmental delay or an established condition.
- **Service Delivery:** Services must be delivered face-to-face in the child's natural environment, which includes everyday routines, activities, and places (ERAP) customarily a part of the family's day.
- **Intervention Strategy:** Providers utilize a capacity-building method, using coaching as the key intervention strategy to build the confidence and competence of parents and caregivers.
- **Goal:** The focus is on using everyday learning opportunities to promote the child's growth and optimal development across five domains: physical, cognitive, communication, social/emotional, and adaptive development.

Early Intervention Provider Roles & Definitions

1. Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

- **Definition:** A licensed professional responsible for the identification, diagnosis, and appraisal of children with communication or language disorders and developmental delays.
- **Core Responsibilities:** Evaluates and treats delays in expressive language, receptive language, and social communication. Licensed therapists are authorized on the IFSP to complete necessary evaluations and provide consultations to other providers.

2. Physical Therapist (PT) & Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)

- **Definition:** Licensed practitioners who address the promotion of sensorimotor function through the enhancement of musculoskeletal status, neurobehavioral organization, perceptual and motor development, and cardiopulmonary status.
- **Core Responsibilities:** PTs conduct screening, evaluation, and assessment to identify and compensate for movement dysfunction by assisting families with environmental adaptations.
- **Supervision & Billing:** PTAs must follow the supervision requirements of their state licensure. Therapy assistants cannot enroll independently in Medicaid as Early Intervention (Type 81) providers. While the PTA must be enrolled and rostered with the state/MMA plans as a rendering provider, all claims are billed under the

supervising PT individual Medicaid number, with the PTA listed as the rendering provider alongside the appropriate claims modifier.

3. Occupational Therapist (OT) & Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

- **Definition:** Licensed therapists who address the functional needs of a child related to adaptive development, adaptive behavior and play, and sensory, motor, and postural development.
- **Core Responsibilities:** OTs evaluate fine motor skills and sensory processing to improve functional ability in home and community settings. They also provide phone or face-to-face consultations to the ITDS to discuss case updates and additional strategies.
- **Supervision & Billing:** OTAs must follow the supervision requirements of their state licensure. Therapy assistants cannot enroll independently in Medicaid as Early Intervention (Type 81) providers. While the OTA must be enrolled and rostered with the state/MMA plans as a rendering provider, all claims are billed under the supervising OT individual Medicaid number, with the OTA listed as the rendering provider alongside the appropriate claims modifier.

4. Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS)

- **Definition:** A highly qualified, non-licensed provider certified by the Department of Health who attends to all areas of early childhood development.
- **Core Responsibilities:** The ITDS is authorized for regular early intervention sessions in the natural environment. They work in a leadership role to assess, plan, and provide intervention strategies through play activities and overarching IFSP goals.
- **Collaboration:** The ITDS consults with licensed therapists (SLP, PT, or OT) for additional strategies to assist the child.

5. Family Service Coordinator (FSC)

- **Definition:** The single point of contact for the family.
- **Core Responsibilities:** The FSC coordinates all early intervention services, facilitates IFSP meetings, and implements the IFSP. FSCs write consultations as strategies under IFSP outcomes and send referrals directly to provider agencies.