



Illinois Department of Human Services

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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief *AmF*
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: July 12, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

This week, we have received several questions about authorizations/reimbursement for early intervention services. There is no new guidance on this topic, but it appears that there were misunderstandings related to the [guidance](#) posted on December 17, 2020. The guidance provided was intended to address how authorizations should be created given the options available for service delivery. They require that the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team, including the caregiver, has a discussion about whether services will be provided in the natural environment, e.g. the family's home, childcare setting, or community-based setting, or an onsite location, e.g. clinic, hospital. If a service is not to be provided in the natural environment, teams need to complete the [natural environments worksheet](#) to explain why the team has determined that the natural environment is not appropriate.

In-person services that will be provided in the natural environment should be authorized with the appropriate place of service code (03 for childcare, 12 for family's home, or 99 for other community setting the child/family regularly participate in with other typical-developing children) and will be reimbursed at the offsite rate.

In-person services that will not be provided in the natural environment should be authorized with the appropriate place of service code (11 for provider location or 62 EI program) and will be reimbursed at the onsite rate.

Based on individual health considerations and after discussions with the IFSP team, including the caregiver, to determine appropriateness, services may be delivered via live video visit (LVV). The rate of reimbursement for services provided via LVV will be based on the location for in-person service delivery, e.g. if in-person services are to be provided in the home, the authorization will be issued using place of service code 12 and the provider will receive the offsite rate for reimbursement. The claim for service should indicate how the service was actually delivered, e.g. 02 if delivered via LVV or 12 if provided in-person in the family's home.

We recognize that there continues to be a level of risk for every family/team and that LVV services have been very beneficial. We also want to be prepared for as much in-person service delivery as possible as many families prefer or need this type of support. We continue to encourage teams to

consider risks and preferences in their decision-making about how families will receive support, but request that authorizations be generated with the intended method of in-person service delivery in mind.

The Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention Communication Workgroup worked with the Early Intervention Training Program to create an interactive system [infographic](#) that can be used to help stakeholders understand the system supports that are available in early intervention. Please check it out!

If you need information about where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>. Given the unvaccinated population we serve, please continue [prescreening](#) for symptoms, wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance. The [Illinois Department of Public Health's website](#) continues to be the best source of information on [regional conditions](#).

Please monitor the [Provider Connections' website](#) for updates to policy and procedure. The [EITP's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse's website](#) should also be monitored for information and resources.

As always, we thank you for continued commitment to children and families!