



**California Children’s Services Medical Therapy Programs Step 2 Guidance
Related to In-Person Services during the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
State of Emergency**

Updated Guidance Date: September 17, 2020

The purpose of this guidance is to add ‘Urgent Need’ criteria for resumption of in-person services at California Children’s Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Program (MTP) Medical Therapy Units (MTU). This is a supplement to the previously released guidance document: California Children’s Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Program (MTP) Guidance Related to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) April 29, 2020 <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/County-CCS-MTP-COVID-Guidance.pdf>, which remains in effect with the addition of this MTP guidance.

The original MTP-related guidance issued by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) permitted MTUs to provide in-person services to clients with critical need, now identified as Step 1. Critical need is defined as any client that is post-surgical/procedural. It also approved county MTPs to provide routine services such as consultation and treatment, when they could be performed using telehealth technology when, as determined by the therapist’s professional judgement, telehealth was considered an acceptable alternative to in-person service provision. Re-evaluations are considered as part of routine services. The current guidance document defines conditions that comprise urgent need, under which in-person services may be provided in the MTU, herein referred to as “Step 2”.

Guidance

- As the State begins gradual reopening, county CCS MTPs may begin in-person services for clients who meet Step 1 or Step 2 conditions.
- Services can be provided in-person to clients that present with urgent needs as defined by the following criteria and approved by the MTU unit supervisor/lead therapist. Urgent need conditions are:
 - Initial evaluations/referral when a delay of in-person assessment and development of treatment plan may result in long-term deficits.

- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) evaluations when the client may incur long-term deficit due to delayed in-person assessment and DME provision and/or DME assessment cannot be performed using telehealth.
- Clients that are aging out of the CCS MTP and have therapy/equipment needs that cannot be met using telehealth.
- Clients with rapidly progressive conditions with evolving therapy/equipment needs that cannot be met using telehealth.
- Other conditions under which the therapist identifies an immediate clinical (physical therapy or occupational therapy) need that cannot be adequately addressed using telehealth.
- Medical Therapy Conference (MTC) appointments that cannot be appropriately performed using telehealth as jointly determined by the MTU unit supervisor/lead therapist and the MTC physician.

MTUs will continue to hold Medical MTCs remotely in lieu of in-person conferences as identified in Step 1 guidance when possible.

County MTPs should continue to inform MTP families to contact the vendor, pharmacy, or prescribing specialist if their CCS-approved supplies or medications are running low. For additional assistance, MTUs should instruct families to contact the county CCS case manager in "Classic" CCS counties, or the managed care plan case management staff in Whole Child Model counties.

County MTPs remain closed by education agencies and not by county health department decision should begin communications with the appropriate education agency to re-open the MTU(s) for in-person services per this updated document.

County MTPs should seek to continue using telehealth for routine therapy and equipment needs and transition clients who met Step 2 criteria back to telehealth when appropriate.

Additional Resources

Telehealth and Virtual Communication in FFS and Managed Care Medi-Cal:

[https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/Telehealth Other Virtual Telephonic Communications V4.0.pdf](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/Telehealth%20Other%20Virtual%20Telephonic%20Communications%20V4.0.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact the MTP Central mailbox at MTPCentral@dhcs.ca.gov

California Children's Services Medical Therapy Programs Step 2
Page 3 of 3
September 17, 2020

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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