108

108 Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention (EI) Services are specialty-oriented services delivered to infants/toddlers enrolled in Alabama's Early Intervention System (AEIS). Alabama's eligibility definition for Early Intervention is: a child birth to three years of age with a diagnosed mental or physical condition which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay or who is experiencing a 25% delay in one or more of the five developmental areas: cognitive, physical to include vision/hearing, communication, social/emotional and adaptive. EI services include the following services provided in the natural environment unless otherwise denoted on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):

Early Intervention Services include:

- Intake Evaluation
- Basic Living Skills
- Audiology
- Family Support
- Physician Evaluation and Management Services
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Physical Therapy (PT)
- Psychological Testing
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Vision Services
- Treatment Plan Review

Eligible infants/toddlers receive EI Services through providers who contract with Medicaid to provide services to the eligible population.

108.1 Enrollment

HP enrolls EI providers who meet the licensure and/or certification requirements of the State of Alabama, the Code of Federal Regulations, the *Standards For Serving Young Children With Disabilities and Their Families In Alabama* (EI personnel standards), the *Alabama Medicaid Administrative Code,* and the *Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual.*

Refer to Chapter 2, Becoming a Medicaid Provider, for general enrollment instructions and information. Failure to provide accurate and truthful information or intentional misrepresentation might result in action ranging from denial of application to permanent exclusion.

National Provider Identifier, Type, and Specialty

A provider who contracts with Alabama Medicaid as an EI provider is added to the Medicaid system with the National Provider Identifiers provided at the time application is made. Appropriate provider specialty codes are assigned to enable the provider to submit requests and receive reimbursement for EI-related claims.

NOTE:
The 10-digit NPI is required when filing a claim.

- EI providers are assigned a provider type of 63 (Services).

Valid providers for Early Intervention through contractual agreements include the following:

- Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB)
- Children's Rehabilitation Services (ADRS/CRS)

NOTE:
CRS Specialty Clinics are not part of Early Intervention.

- Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation (DMH/MR)
- Division of Early Intervention (ADRS/EI)

Enrollment Policy

Providers are qualified personnel who provide services within the natural environment unless otherwise denoted on the IFSP and provide services through a team approach.

Providers must meet recognized standards for infants/toddlers under AEIS and include the following disciplines, at a minimum:

- Audiologists
- Family Therapists
- Nurses
- Registered Dietitians
- Occupational Therapists
- Orientation & Mobility Specialists
- Physical Therapists
- Psychologists
- Social Worker
- Service Coordinators
- Special Instructors
- Speech & Language Pathologists
- Vision Specialists

108.2 Benefits and Limitations

All providers must participate in the development of the IFSP. All services must be provided as outlined on the IFSP.

Case management/service coordination is an integral part of Alabama's EI System. Case managers/service coordinators provide services such as evaluation/assessment, IFSP development, and coordination of services. Please see Chapter addressing Targeted Case Management for Handicapped Children.

IFSP Team

The IFSP teams are usually comprised of family support personnel, parents/family members, and other EI personnel as they relate to the identified needs of the infant/toddler. The team will establish a written IFSP. The IFSP team then implements this plan.

108.2.1 Covered Services

EI Services do not include services rendered under other Medicaid programs.

EI Services are covered when provided by a Medicaid-enrolled early intervention provider and are subject to retrospective review which may result in monies being recouped.

Types of covered services provided include, but are not limited to:

- Intake Evaluation
- Basic Living Skills
- Therapy (physical, speech/language, occupational)
- Family Support
- Audiology services
- Physician Evaluation and Management services
- Psychological testing
- Vision services
- Treatment Plan Review

An IFSP is required for each infant/toddler and Family Support Personnel is responsible for arranging specialty and needed services for the family.

The following is a description of each EI service. Please see the EI Services Grid for Billing Unit, Daily Maximum, Maximum Units and Billing Restrictions.

Intake Evaluation (90801 with TL modifier)

Definition

Initial evaluation to determine child's eligibility for EI. Child will undergo an evaluation of all five developmental areas with a second procedure to confirm delay in at least one of the developmental areas. The evaluator(s) will determine child's functioning level and provide written report which will indicate child's functioning level in terms of percentage of delay or no delay. Eligibility determination will be made by a multidisciplinary team. Ongoing assessment will be conducted to determine the child's continued eligibility for EI.

Key service functions include the following:

- A voluntary family assessment conducted in a personal interview
- Evaluation of the child's functioning level in the five developmental areas: cognitive, physical (includes vision & hearing), communication, social/emotional and adaptive
- Review of pertinent medical records or other developmental information
- Screening of vision and hearing
- Written report

Qualified staff

Evaluations & assessments may be performed by individuals who meet the test protocol for administering such tests as the Battelle, Bailey, Hawaii, E-LAP, DOCS, IDA, etc. These individuals include:

- Targeted case manager
- Family Support personnel (completion of the AEIS SI Core Curriculum is not required)
- Certified social worker licensed under Alabama law
- Occupational, Physical or Speech therapist licensed under Alabama law
- Audiologist licensed under Alabama law
- Individuals meeting ICC personnel standards for Family Training/Counseling/Home visits
- Registered nurse licensed under Alabama law
- Registered dietitian licensed under Alabama law
- Psychologist licensed under Alabama law
- School psychologist or psychometrist meeting Alabama's ICC personnel standards
- Individuals who have a bachelor's degree in ECSE/VI/HI with an Alabama Class B certification or who meet Alabama's ICC personnel standards (e.g. special instructors, family trainers, home visitors, service coordinators, social workers, etc.)

- Orientation & Mobility specialists as certified by the Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Location

Service may be delivered in the child's natural environment or service provider location.

Basic Living Skills (H0036 with TL modifier)

Definition

Functional evaluation of the child in the child's natural environment. The purchasing, leasing or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices. Selecting, designing, adapting, or maintaining an AT device, in order to assist with basic living skills. Any training and/or technical assistance in developing or maintaining basic living skills to improve functional capacity.

Key service functions include the following:

- Evaluating the child's functioning level and determining need of assistive device
- Acquiring the device and providing maintenance or adaptation to the device.
- Providing child, family and providers on the appropriate use of the device so that the child receives the maximum benefit.
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Occupational, Physical or Speech therapist licensed under Alabama law
- Certified social worker licensed under Alabama law
- Rehabilitation technology specialist
- Other individuals as defined by the ICC Personnel standards

Location

Service may be delivered in the child's natural environment or service provider location.

Audiology (92507, 92508, 92531-92547, 92601, 92602, V5273, and V5299—all codes must be submitted with TL modifier)

Definition

Identification of children with auditory impairment. A determination of range, nature and degree of hearing loss and communication functions of the child. The provision of auditory training, aural rehabilitation, speech reading and listening device orientation and training. The determination of the child's need for individual amplification, including selecting, fitting and dispensing appropriate listening and vibrotactile devices and evaluating the effectiveness of those devices.

Key service functions include the following:

- Identifying auditory impairment based on appropriate audiologic screening techniques
- Determining the range and degree of hearing loss and communication functions
- Providing auditory training, aural rehabilitation, speech reading and listening device orientation
- Selecting, fitting and dispensing appropriate listening and vibrotactile devices and evaluating the effectiveness of those devices
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Audiologist licensed under Alabama law
- Speech therapist licensed under Alabama law
- Hearing Aid Dealers
- Licensed Doctor of Medicine

Location

Service may be delivered in the child's natural environment or service provider location.

Family Support (H2027 with TL modifier)

Definition

Services provided to assist the family of an eligible child in understanding the special needs of the child and enhancing the child's development.

Preparing a social/emotional developmental assessment of the child within the family context. Making home visits to evaluate a child's living conditions and patterns of parent-child interaction. Working with the family's living situation (home, community and other locations where early intervention services are provided) that affect the child's maximum utilization of early intervention services.

Providing families with information, skills and support related to enhancing the skill development of the child. Working with the child to enhance the child's development. The planned interaction of personnel, materials, time and space that leads to achieving the outcomes in the child's IFSP. Promoting the child's acquisition of skills in a variety of developmental areas, including cognitive processes and social interaction.

Providing families with a single point of contact for EI services. Assisting and enabling the child/family eligible for EI to receive the rights, procedural safeguards and services authorized under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.

Completing all EI procedural safeguard requirements to allow a child (referral) to go through the evaluation/assessment process to determine eligibility for early intervention. Discussion of what is available through early intervention and all rights will be reviewed with the family. Coordination of the evaluation to determine eligibility and results will be part of the intake process. Discussion of other resources if the child is found to be ineligible for EI.

Key service functions include the following:

- Training the family regarding specific information regarding the child's disability
- How to carry out activities as indicated on the IFSP
- Counseling related to the child's disability and the family's ability to cope with the child's condition
- Home visits are a support to accomplished activities under the IFSP
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP
- Identifying and coordinating community resources and services to enable the child and family to receive maximum benefit from EI services
- Providing individual and family-group counseling with parents and other family members, and appropriate social skill building activities with the child and parents
- Social/emotional developmental assessment
- Home visits to evaluate a child's living conditions
- Enhancing the developmental skills of the child

- Teaming with other therapeutic disciplines to conduct activities that support outcomes in the child's IFSP
- Providing structured intervention and a routine, functional approach to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder
- Coordinating the evaluations/assessments for the determination of the initial EI eligibility and ongoing eligibility
- Facilitating and participating in the development, review and evaluation of the IFSP to include all team members
  - Facilitating the timely delivery of services
  - Assisting families in gaining access to the EI services and other services identified in the IFSP
  - Coordinating and monitoring the delivery of appropriate EI services
  - Contact with family via telephone, home visit, etc.
  - Review of EI procedural safeguards
  - Providing the family with other resources and appropriately closing the child if the child is determined ineligible for EI

Qualified staff

Individuals must meet the ICC approved personnel standards. For those individuals required to complete the AEIS SI Core Curriculum, this must be accomplished prior to providing this service under Medicaid.

- Individuals with a Bachelor's degree in ECSE, VI or HI and an Alabama Class B teacher certification or who meet Alabama's ICC personnel standards (e.g. special instructors, family trainers, home visitors, service coordinators, social workers, etc.)
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Marriage & Family Therapy Associate per Board approved rules
- Individual with a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling
- Psychologist licensed under Alabama law
- Certified social worker licensed under Alabama law
- Individuals who have a bachelor's degree in a related human services field; such as, allied health, behavioral science, child/human/family development, child life families studies, communication disorders, education, health and recreation, health services administration, psychology, rehabilitation, social science, social welfare, sociology*
- Registered nurse under Alabama law*
- *Both groups of qualified staff must also complete "Journey Through EI in Alabama" (within 6 months of employment) and "Applications of Journey Through EI in Alabama (within first year of employment)

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in the service provider location

Physician Evaluation and Management Services (99382 with TL modifier)

Definition

Services provided by a physician to determine a child's developmental status and need for early intervention services.

Key services functions include the following:

- To evaluate the child's on-going eligibility for AEIS.
- To determine if the child has a physical or mental condition that would make the child eligible, if no such diagnosis previously existed and the child was no longer experiencing a 25% delay to maintain eligibility for AEIS.
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Licensed doctor of medicine

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in service provider location.

Occupational Therapy (97003, 97004, 97110, 97530, 97532, and 97533 — all codes must be submitted with the TL modifier)

Definition

Services to address the functional needs of the child related to adaptive development, adaptive behavior and play and sensory, motor and postural development. These services are designed to improve the child's functional ability to perform tasks in the home and community settings.

Key service functions include the following:

- Identification, assessment and intervention
- Adaptation of the environment, and selection, design and fabrication of assistive and orthotic devices to facilitate development and promote the acquisition of functional skills
- Prevention or minimization of the impact of initial or future impairment, delay in development or loss of functional ability
- Providing developmental and functionally appropriate services
- Teaming as appropriate with other IFSP team members in achieving the outcomes in the child's IFSP
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Occupational therapist licensed under Alabama law

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or service provider location.

Physical Therapy (97001, 97002, 97110, 97112, 97530, 97532, 97533, and 97760— **all codes must be submitted with the TL modifier)**

Definition

Services to address the promotion of sensorimotor function through enhancement of musculoskeletal status, neurobehavioral organization, perceptual and motor development, cardiopulmonary status and effective environmental adaptation.

Key service functions include the following:

- Screening, evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers to identify movement dysfunction
- Obtaining, interpreting and integrating information appropriate to program planning to prevent, alleviate or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems
- Providing individual and group services or treatment to prevent, alleviate or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems
- Providing developmental and functionally appropriate services
- Teaming as appropriate with other IFSP team members in achieving the outcomes in the child's IFSP
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Physical therapist licensed under Alabama law

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in the service provider location

Psychological testing (96101 and 96102 with TL modifier)

Definition

Administering psychological and developmental tests and other assessment procedures. Interpreting assessment results. Obtaining, integrating and interpreting information about the child behavior and child and family conditions related to learning, mental health and development. Planning and managing a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents, family counseling, consultation on child development, parent training and education programs.

Key service functions include the following:

- Administering developmental tests
- Interpreting assessment results
- Planning psychological services and counseling to family related to the child's development
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Psychologist licensed under Alabama law
- School psychologist certified by the Alabama State Department of Education for AA Certificate and/or holds the National Certification in School Psychology
- School Psychometrist certified by the Alabama State Department of Education for the A Certificate and/or listed in the Alabama Roster of Approved Psychologists and Psychometrists for Testing Children Referred for Placement in Special Education Classes

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in the service provider location

Speech-Language Pathology (92506, 92507, and 92508 — all codes must be submitted with the TL modifier)

Definition

Identification of children with communicative or oropharyngeal disorders and delays in the development of communication skills, including the diagnosis and appraisal of specific disorders and delays in those skills. Referral for medical or other professional services necessary for the habilitation or rehabilitation of children with communicative or oropharyngeal disorders and delays in the development of communication skills. Provision of services for the habilitation, rehabilitation or prevention of communicative or oropharyngeal disorders and delays in the development of communication skills.

Key service functions include the following:

- Identifying and evaluating delays in the development of communication skills
- Providing services to address the developmental delays of the child's communication skills
- Speech services include a variety of techniques, to include, but not limited to: speech, cued speech, auditory-verbal therapy, etc.
- Providing developmental and functionally appropriate services
- Teaming as appropriate with other IFSP team members in achieving the outcomes in the child's IFSP
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Staff will meet the ICC approved Personnel Standards for AEIS

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in service provider location.

Vision services (99173 with TL modifier)

Definition

Evaluation & assessment of visual functioning, including the diagnosis and appraisal of specific visual disorder, delays and abilities. Referral for medical or other professional services necessary for the habilitation and rehabilitation of visual functioning disorders or both. Communication skills training, orientation and mobility training for all environments, visual training, independent living skills training, and additional training necessary to activate visual motor abilities.

Key service functions include the following:

- Determining the visual functioning level of the child
- Orientation and mobility training for all environments
- Visual training
- Independent living skills training
- Providing developmental and functionally appropriate services
- Teaming as appropriate with other IFSP team members in achieving the outcomes in the child's IFSP
- Progress reports and physical participation in IFSP meetings
- Service will be provided per the IFSP

Qualified staff

- Individuals with a bachelor's degree in the Education of the Visually Impaired and have an Alabama Class B teacher certificate
- Orientation & Mobility specialists as certified by the Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Licensed doctor of Optometry or Ophthalmologist
- Occupational or Physical therapist licensed under Alabama law

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in service provider location.

Treatment Plan Review (H0032 with TL modifier)

Definition

Review and/or revision of a client's IFSP by qualified staff members. Treatment outcomes will be written in family friendly terms, based on the family's priorities and concerns. A variety of disciplines may be involved based on the results of the multidisciplinary evaluation and assessment that determined the child's eligibility for EI. The meeting for this review will only occur if the family is present.

- The IFSP is reviewed with the family
- Treatment outcomes are functional in nature
- Modification or revision of treatment outcomes or services are made as necessary and coordinated through the Family Support Personnel
- After the initial IFSP is written, the plan will be reviewed, at a minimum, every six months
- The 6 month review can be done via telephone with the parent by the therapist or special instructor.

Qualified staff

See staff listed under previous EI services

Location

Service may be provided in the child's natural environment or in service provider location.

108.2.2 Reimbursement

Claims may be submitted for reimbursement for multiple early intervention services to a recipient on any given day. However, a provider may only submit one claim per day for a particular service to a recipient. For example, an infant may receive family support, special instruction and speech therapy all on the same day. Each face to face contact with the infant would constitute an encounter. Each discipline will be able to submit a claim for reimbursement: family support, the special instructor and speech therapist would submit for their individual services to the child per the IFSP. If a provider is qualified to provide more than one EI service then each claim for reimbursement and documentation should clearly distinguish which service was rendered and there should be a clear delineation of types of services to the infant/toddler.

*Covered services are face-to-face contacts during which a professional team member provides an EI service to an infant/toddler. They are identified based on the data from the individual EI records.

* An exception to face-to-face contacts is the 6 month review of the treatment plan. The 6 month review plan is allowable to be billed when the service plan is reviewed by telephone. It may still be done face-to-face if preferred by the parent.

The definition of a professional team member depends upon the type of service being delivered.

108.2.3 Maintenance of Records

The provider must make available to the Alabama Medicaid Agency at no charge all information regarding claims for services provided to eligible recipients. The provider will permit access to all records and facilities for the purpose of claims audit, program monitoring, and utilization review by duly authorized representatives of federal and state agencies. The provider maintains complete and accurate fiscal records that fully disclose the extent and cost of services.

The provider maintains documentation of progress notes and dates of service.

The provider maintains all records for a period of at least three years plus the current fiscal year. If audit, litigation, or other legal action by or on behalf of the state or federal government has begun but is not completed at the end of the three-year period, the provider retains the records until the legal action is resolved. The provider must keep records in a format that facilitates the establishment of a complete audit trail in the event the items are audited.

108.3 Prior Authorization and Referral Requirements

Early Intervention codes do not require prior authorization. Refer to Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization, for general guidelines.

A Patient's First referral is **not** required for EI Services.

108.4 Cost Sharing (Copayment)

Copayment does not apply to services provided by EI Providers.

108.5 Completing the Claim Form

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, providers should bill Medicaid claims electronically.

EI Providers that bill Medicaid claims electronically receive the following benefits:

- Quicker claim processing turnaround
- Immediate claim correction
- Online adjustment functions
- Enhanced access to eligibility information

Refer to Appendix B, Electronic Media Claims Guidelines, for more information about electronic filing.

This section describes program-specific claims information. Refer to Chapter 5, Filing Claims, for general claims filing information and instructions.

108.5.1 Time Limit for Filing Claims

Medicaid requires all claims for EI services to be filed within one year from the date of service. Refer to Section 5.1.5, Filing Limits and Approved Exceptions, for more information regarding timely filing limits and exceptions.

108.5.2 Procedure Codes and Modifiers

Medicaid uses the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). HCPCS is composed of the following:

- American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Nationally assigned codes developed for Medicare
- Locally assigned codes issued by Medicaid. Effective for dates of service on or after 01/01/2004, use national codes.

The CPT manual lists most procedure codes required by Medicaid. This manual may be obtained by contacting the Order Department, American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610-9986. The (837) Professional, Institutional and Dental electronic claims and the paper claim have been modified to accept up to four Procedure Code Modifiers.

108.5.3 Place of Service

Claims should be filed with Place of Service (POS) Code 11 (office) or 12 (home).

The following procedure codes have been approved for billing by Early Intervention providers.

EI Services Grid

(All these Procedure Codes **require** a TL modifier)

Procedure Code	***Billing Unit***	***Daily Maximum***	***Maximum Units-Annual***	***Description***	***Same Day Services Not Allowed (Billing Restrictions)***
90801	Episode	3	6	Intake Evaluation	All other EI services except TCM and Family Support Personnel NOTE: Two different disciplines may bill for this service on the same day.
H0036	1	2	24	Basic Living Skills	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
92507 92508 92531-92547 92601 92602 V5273 V5299	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	104 104 48 96 96 1 12	Audiology services	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
H2027	15 min	24	600	Family Support	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty. SW may not be provided in conjunction with services from AL Dept of Human Resources
99382	30 min	4	10	Physician Evaluation and Management Services	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
97003 97004 97110 97530 97532 97533	1 1 15 min 15 min 15 min 15 min	1 1 4 4 4 4	1 1 192 192 192 192	Occupational Therapy	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day.

Procedure Code	Billing Unit	Daily Maximum	Maximum Units-Annual	Description	Same Day Services Not Allowed (Billing Restrictions)
97001 97002 97110 97112 97530 97532 97533 97760	1 1 15 min 15 min 15 min 15 min 15 min 15 min	1 1 4 4 4 4 4 4	1 1 192 192 192 192 192 192	Physical Therapy	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day.
96101 96102	1 hour 1 hour	5 5	48 48	Psychological testing	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
92506 92507 92508	1 1 1	1 1 1	6 104 104	Speech-Language Pathology	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
99173	1	1	52	Vision services	May not be billed by two different disciplines on the same day with the same provider specialty
H0032	30 min	7	21	Treatment Plan Review	Individuals must be part of the IFSP team and only one person per discipline can bill for this service on any given day

*The units of measure for Diagnostic Testing Codes 96101 and 96102 can be billed in 30 minute fractional units. When billing claims, .5 units will equal 30 minutes; 1 unit will equal 1 hour; 1.5 units will equal 1 ½ hours, etc. Providers cannot bill less than a 30 minute increment. The time started and time ended of service delivery will not include time spent for interpretation of tests at this time.

108.5.4 Required Attachments

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, your attachments should be limited to the following circumstances:

- Claims With Third Party Denials

Refer to Section 5.7, Required Attachments, for more information on attachments.

108.6 For More Information

This section contains a cross-reference to other relevant sections in the manual.

Resource	Where to Find It
CMS-1500 Claim Filing Instructions	Section 5.2
Electronic Media Claims (EMC) Submission Guidelines	Appendix B
AVRS Quick Reference Guide	Appendix L
Alabama Medicaid Contact Information	Appendix N

This page is intentionally left blank.