

Module 5: Considerations Tool Recommendation Transcript

Training in the Use of the Occupational and Physical Therapy Tools: Considerations for Educationally Relevant Therapy Tool Recommendation

Based upon the goals and objectives as determined by the team they can then determine which ones require the support of an occupational or physical therapist. Those educational objectives and goals are then reported on the summary sheet. **Once this is done, the IEP team proceeds with a recommendation for therapy services on the summary sheet.** The recommendation should not be done before the completion of the student and therapy profile, nor should it be done prior to establishing the priority educational need. Any comments that the team feels needs to be noted can be added in the comment section along with the IEP team's final decision concerning therapy.

Now let's walk through the process used to fill at the grid for recommending therapy services. The grid at the bottom of the considerations tool is designed to assist if therapy services are indicated and if they are, the frequency at which therapy should occur. The horizontal ranges are for marking the score from the student profile. The vertical ranges are for marking the score from the therapy profile. Using the score derived from the student profile section, place an "X" over the range that contains the student's score on the top row of the grid. In this case, the score was 12. Therefore, the "X" is placed in the box showing the range 12-14. Using the score derived from the therapy profile section, place an "X" over the range that contains the student's score on the first column grid. In this case, the score was 10. Therefore, the "X" is placed in the box showing the range 9-10. Draw a line down from the student profile score until it is at the bottom of the grid. Then draw a line from the therapy profile score until it reaches across the side of the grid. The point where the lines intersect indicates the recommended frequency of therapy. For this example, the recommendation falls in the periodic range.

The team then records the recommendation by checking the appropriate box that is reflected in the tool. **Then the team decides whether services are needed and the frequency and they place that recommendation in the box.** Remember that the tool makes a recommendation and gives the team a visual range for the amount of therapy that is educationally relevant. The team makes the final decision and can make a decision that is more or less, than the recommendation based on individual considerations. However, it is very important for the team to remain as close as possible to the recommendation to ensure uniformity in determining services using the tool and remain in the realm of educationally relevant therapy.

The decision concerning the amount of therapy should be placed in the comment section. Remember, this tool is not to be attached to the IEP but should be a part of the student's folder and the therapist's documentation.

The tool comes with an explanation for the recommendation categories in the scoring grid. Each school district should determine the appropriate language that fits the time increments used for their district. The directions in the tool provide the following examples as guidelines for therapist to use in interpreting the scoring grid.

- **Services are not indicated** when the student is self-reliant and functional in the educational environment or the student's needs are addressed by classroom curriculum or other existing services (which may include total assistance by school staff)
- **Periodic Services** may include documented environmental or equipment modifications and training and/or consultation with parents and/or school staff. Examples of frequency of therapy are one segment per month, two segments per grading period, thirty minutes per month, or once per semester.
- **Regular Services** may include specific therapeutic strategies, environmental or equipment modifications, and training and/or collaboration with parents and/or school staff. Examples of frequency of therapy are two segments per month, one segment per week, or 30-45 minutes per week
- **Intensive Services** may include intensive therapeutic strategies, multiple environmental or equipment modifications, and training of parents and/or school staff. Examples of frequency of therapy are one to two segments per week or 45-60 minutes per week.

The IEP team proceeds with a Recommendation for Therapy Services on the Summary Sheet. The recommendation should not be done before the educational need is established based on the goals and objectives on the IEP, and the completion of the student and therapy profiles. Comments should be noted, as needed.

Please remember that it is very important to stay within the range recommended by the tool so that the state is uniformly making decisions about how educationally relevant therapy is determined.

On behalf of the Department of Education, we would like to thank you for viewing these modules. We know that you will find the information beneficial to you as you serve students with disabilities in your district.