



**Connecticut Medical Assistance Program**  
Policy Transmittal 2020-14

Provider Bulletin 2020-16  
March 2020

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: March 16, 2020

Contact: Ginny Mahoney @ (860) 424-5145

**TO: Birth to Three Providers**

**RE: Remote Early Intervention Treatment Services**

Effective for dates of service March 16, 2020 and forward, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is implementing Remote Early Intervention Treatment Services (EITS) in order to provide coordinated, interdisciplinary supports to children in Birth to Three and their families and other caregivers. DSS is implementing this coverage simultaneously with the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), which is the state's lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 17b-262-1114 of DSS's Operational Policy regarding Birth to Three Services, which has the force of regulation pursuant to section 17b-10 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides: "Each billing provider shall primarily provide in-person early intervention treatment services. When appropriate in accordance with the IFSP, a provider may provide early intervention treatment services using a synchronous real-time video conference, provided that such mode of treatment: is clinically appropriate for a child's circumstances for a specific service to be delivered other than in-person; is provided in accordance with all applicable lead agency and department procedures; complies with all applicable information security and privacy requirements; and meets all other applicable requirements for a service, including, but not limited to, provider qualifications, duration of service and specific services provided."

**Birth to Three providers must also follow OEC's Remote Early Intervention procedure**, which is attached and is also posted at this link:

<https://www.birth23.org/providers/provider-resources/procedures>

**Billing Information and Modifier GT:**

Billing information for remote EI procedures can be found in the OEC payment procedure located at: <https://www.birth23.org/providers/provider-resources/procedures> under remote EI.

In addition, Birth to Three providers must include the "GT" modifier on claims for services which were provided remotely.

The description of the GT modifier is the following: "Interactive telecommunication via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems".

**Accessing the Fee Schedule:**

The updated Special Services fee schedule can be accessed and downloaded by going to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com). From this Web page, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download". Click on the "I accept" button and scroll down to the "Special Services – Birth to Three Yrs" fee schedule.

**Posting Instructions:**

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com).

**Distribution:**

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by DXC Technology.

**Responsible Unit:**

DSS, Division of Health Services, Medical Policy and Regulations, Ginny Mahoney, Health Policy Consultant (860) 424-5145 or [ginny.mahoney@ct.gov](mailto:ginny.mahoney@ct.gov).

**Date Issued:** March 2020

# **Title: COVID-19 Interim Remote Early Intervention**

**Purpose:** To define the standards and requirements for providing Early Intervention Services (EIS) remotely, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## **Overview**

Except as otherwise specifically modified below, all EIS Programs must follow the Remote EI procedure posted on Birth23.org.

## **Interim Remote EI Exceptions**

Effective for dates of service from March 16, 2020 until the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has notified providers in writing that the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health emergency has concluded, the following components of the Remote EI Procedure are waived or revised as follows:

- Practitioners may provide all coverable EIS services via Remote EI, consistent with other applicable requirements;
- Prior Authorization to provide EIS via Remote EI from the OEC is not required;
- Remote EI does not need to be listed in the IFSP;
- Audio-Only Telephone Remote EI is permissible only in accordance with the following:
  - Developmental Evaluations: For a child with an applicable diagnosed condition supported by sufficient medical records, the eligibility determination portion of an evaluation may be provided using audio-only telephone if audio-visual communication is not available.
  - Assessments: Audio-only telephone is not permissible for assessments.
  - IFSP Planning: IFSP planning, including meetings with the IFSP team to review or revise an IFSP, may be provided via audio-only telephone as appropriate at any time.
  - Early Intervention Treatment Services (EITS): If a child's family does not have access to video-conferencing capability, for a limited number of visits, EITS can be provided via audio-only phone for the Program to help the family access audio-video communication. Synchronous audio-video communication is the preferred method for remote EITS. In extenuating circumstances where a family is unable to use audio-visual communication, audio-only phone EITS is permissible for a more extended period of time with prior written approval from OEC on a case by case basis.
- Parental Consent on Form 5-2 must be obtained within one week of the first Remote EI service and may be obtained through appropriate electronic means;
- The requirement for a Birth to Three practitioners to have one year of prior experience providing EITS before performing Remote EI is not required;
- In-person visits during the month are not required; and
- The distance requirement that would otherwise apply to Remote EI is waived.

## Appendix A:

# List of OEC approves Applications for Remote EI

### Overview

All EITS Programs must follow the Remote EI procedure posted on [Birth23.org](https://www.birth23.org). It is essential to note that just because the software has a HIPAA compliant option, that does not mean that all versions of that software are HIPAA compliant (i.e., Zoom has a medical subscription, which is the **only** HIPAA compliant version).

If a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) is required, that is appropriate for HIPAA.

HIPAA addresses the need for both encryption and the use of any data collected.

- Am Well - <https://business.amwell.com/>
- Clocktree - <https://www.clocktree.com/>
- Doxy.me - <https://doxy.me/>
- GoToMeeting - <https://www.gotomeeting.com/>
- Mega Meeting - <https://www.megameeting.com>
- MS Team - <https://products.office.com/>
- Simple Practice - <https://www.simplepractice.com/>
- VSee - <https://vsee.com/>
- Zoom for Healthcare - <https://zoom.us/healthcare>

If DSS publishes a provider bulletin about this B23 programs are required to also follow that guidance.

As of 03/19/2020 10:17 am- this list will continue to be updated as new applications are approved.