



**Binder:** OSF HealthPlans HCM Department

**Policy**


**No./Title:** HCM.CMG.045 Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy for Children

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**Revision/Review**

**Date(s):** 10/01; 10/02; 2/03; 10/03; 8/04; 2/05; 2/06; 12/06; 12/07

**Approval:**  **Title:** Vice President and Chief Medical Officer

**POLICY:** Speech Occupational, and Physical Therapy Authorization Guidelines for Children

**PURPOSE:** To promote consistency in authorizing speech, occupational and physical therapy for children under OSF HealthPlans products.

**PROCEDURE:**

Coverage Criteria for Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services for Children

Speech, occupational and physical therapy will be approved as required 1-2 times per week for children two to three years old for speech disturbance, developmental delays. At age 3, OSF HealthPlans would anticipate the start of transitioning to the school system with total transition completed by the beginning of the Fall for the school year prior to the child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. If child is over four years old, the child should be enrolled in the school system for continued services. Educational speech, occupational and physical therapy will not be covered for any child over four years old. If there is a medical condition directly affecting speech or physical abilities, OSF HealthPlans will continue to authorize and cover therapies as required 1-2 times per week for children over four years old.

Examples of conditions that will be covered after age four will be documented hearing loss by Ent Specialist and Neurological Trauma. This applies to children with unidentifiable causes for speech/physical problems.

All visits not to exceed plan limit visit maximums and are subject to outpatient rehabilitation services visit maximum per Plan year.

Therapy will only be covered at an outpatient facility unless the child is home bound, or has medical conditions that restrict going to an outpatient facility.

Effective 1/1/07 upon plan renewal:

According to Illinois State Law: Public Act (PA)\_ 94-0906, twenty additional outpatient speech therapy visits will be allowed for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorders (diagnosis codes 299--299.91)