

Clinical Services Bureau Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services, “Safety Net Services”

What are Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services?

Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services, or “Safety Net Services,” are available through the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division’s Clinical Services Bureau (CSB). These temporary supports are designed to address any unmet critical Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), or Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) therapy needs and can include consultation and/or intervention, as described by the team as essential at the current time, without which the person will be at risk.

Therapy services provided by CSB Therapy Consultants are limited in duration and scope. Safety Net services must follow established practices and conform to the Waiver Service Standards.

Short -Term Therapy Consultation services may include:

- Focused evaluations for environmental modifications, assistive technology (AT)/durable medical equipment (DME), remote personal support technology (RPST), seating and positioning, mobility, etc.
 - Note:* This does not include comprehensive evaluations for ongoing therapy needs.
- Training for use of current AT items.
- Training for implementation of Written Direct Support Instructions (WDSI) strategies.
- Determination if a “Designated Trainer” is appropriate and available for any therapy plans in place.
- Recommendations for AT/RPST/DME and facilitation of acquisition or repair.
- Support for any Aspiration Risk Management (ARM) activities, including Comprehensive Aspiration Risk Management Plan (CARMP) recommendations, as defined by current Waiver Service Standards.
- Communication with the interdisciplinary team regarding essential therapy needs.
- Development and training of new WDSIs to support:
 - Health and safety
 - Individual Service Plan (ISP) visions and outcomes
 - Other areas that require immediate, necessary support for daily functioning

Short-Term Therapy Consultation services will *not* include:

- Attendance at team meetings. (Case Managers should notify the CSB Therapy Consultant if topics directly related to the Short-Term Consultation services are on the agenda.)

- Long-term on-site therapy services. CSB Therapy Consultants will utilize a combination of telehealth and on-site visits, as needed.
- Comprehensive therapy services related to every need that could be addressed by that therapy discipline. Short-Term Safety Net Services are limited and available to address essential therapy services only, as defined previously in this document.

Case Managers (CMs) are the primary contact for the CSB Therapy Consultants and are responsible for:

- Informing the CSB Therapy Consultant through SCOMM of any significant changes in the individual’s life that might affect therapy consultation services.
- Informing the CSB Therapy Consultant of any upcoming team meetings and the topic of those meetings.
- Requesting a Therapy Consultation status update prior to annual ISP meetings, as needed.
- Coordinating with the CSB Consultant and team when transitioning to an ongoing Therapy Provider.

Accessing Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services, “Safety Net Services”

When there are no therapy provider agencies available through the Secondary Freedom of Choice (SFOC) process in a county or region, these steps should be followed to access Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services.

1. Discuss unmet essential therapy needs during a team meeting
 - What are the current specific therapy needs?
 - Were these essential therapy services provided to the person during the previous year by a therapist of this discipline?
 - Does the person’s Medicare, Medicaid, or other private health insurance provide the needed therapy services? (A care coordinator from the health care plan can be helpful in obtaining and coordinating these services.)
 - For example, a person may be eligible for home health or outpatient services if they have experienced an injury due to a fall, have suffered an acute event such as a stroke, or have a chronic condition.

* When medical insurance benefits are considered, guardian, or nurse on the team should contact the person’s primary care provider to make an appointment to discuss the need and obtain appropriate orders.
2. Consider other members of the team that may assume responsibility for an identified therapy need on either a temporary or permanent basis?
 - For example, a nurse may be able to monitor the range of motion program written by the previous PT or OT, an OT may be able to address the positioning needs, an SLP may be able to address AT needs, or a PT may be

able to address functional activity issues.

*No therapist, nurse, or team member should be asked to cover an area that is not within that person's expertise or scope of practice, or for which they are not qualified or comfortable addressing. Case Managers: a budget revision should be considered for a therapist who is taking on additional responsibilities.

3. Evaluate whether any of the following resources could address an immediate need:
 - The DDS Support and Assessment for Feeding and Eating (SAFE) Clinic for issues involving eating, tube feeding, and nutrition
 - The DDS Specialty Seating Clinic for issues involving positioning and wheelchairs
 - The UNM Special Needs Clinic and /or Transdisciplinary Evaluation and Support Clinic (TEASC) to address multiple or complex issues
 - The UNM Cerebral Palsy Clinic for general assistance with medical issues related to cerebral palsy
4. Identify specific outcomes to be achieved by Safety Net Services.
5. Obtain approval from the waiver recipient or their guardian to access additional therapy support from any source.
6. Request short-term safety net services through the Regional Office Request for Assistance (RORA) process. Include team efforts to identify internal and external resources and indicate the specific needs of the person.
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e1352b0c7c7f4e27b09a2974538dc925>
 - Check 'Service Unavailability to meet identified critical need' as the Primary Issue AND
 - Answer 'Yes' to this question: Are you requesting Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services?
 - Answer the questions about what exactly the team needs help with, contact person info, etc.
7. DDS CSB Therapy Services Coordinator will share the information with the appropriate DDS Therapy Consultant.
 - The Therapy Consultant will determine how to best address the essential therapy needs as identified on the electronic RORA submission.
 - Communication with CM will be through SCOMM in Therap.
8. Short-Term Therapy Consultation begins.
9. Short-Term Therapy Consultation Services remain in place until:
 - Any identified *essential* therapy needs have been addressed
 - A therapy provider is available through the SFOC and an ongoing budget is in place

For questions or more information contact CSB Therapy Coordinator at (505) 527-3611