



To: All Birth to Three Providers

Date: 09/30/2024, Revised 9/16/2025

Subject: Music Therapists in CT Birth to Three System

The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information regarding **Music Therapists** providing services and supports in the Connecticut Birth to Three System.

Key Information:

1. Incorporation into the IFSP:

Music Therapy must be **added to the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)** when the IFSP team deems it appropriate to support a child's and family's outcomes. As with any service, it is to be discussed only during the IFSP meeting and determined based on the child's developmental needs and family priorities.

- a. **Note:** Music Therapist has been added as an available discipline in the IFSP screen of the Birth to Three Data System.

2. Service Delivery:

Music Therapists, as defined below, are considered professional providers, and therefore, may provide Early Intervention Treatment Services (EITS), Evaluation, Assessment, and IFSP services, and **must follow the Birth to Three approach**, including considerations such as:

- a. **Natural Learning Environment Practices (NLEP):** Services should be provided in the child's natural environment. Consider whether the materials used support natural routines rather than relying on external toys/instruments.
- b. **Primary Service Provider (PSP) and Coaching:** Music Therapy should align with the PSP approach, with therapists acting in a coaching role to support parents and caregivers.
- c. **Assistive Technology (AT):** Consider whether AT may support outcomes.

3. Payment Process:

The billing of services provided by a Music Therapist (e.g., EITS, Assessment, Evaluation, IFSP) must adhere to the Payment Procedure as well as be **documented in the service delivery screen of the Birth to Three Data System** according to current procedures.

Note regarding update as of 9/16/2025: As of the publishing of this revised memo, and effective for the services provided in September of 2025 and moving forward, services provided by a Music Therapist will be submitted to PCG for processing. PCG has put



adjudication procedures in place so that services provided by a Music Therapist are not sent to Medicaid and/or private insurance, and instead are **paid from escrow funds only**. Programs no longer need to submit additional documentation or add Music Therapy services to the “other” line of the invoice.

4. Personnel Standards:

All Music Therapists providing services through Birth to Three **must meet established personnel standards**, including having an active license with the Department of Public Health and an initial Birth to Three certificate as required. They may act as **Service Coordinators** if they have an active service coordination certificate.

5. Parent Requests:

When a parent requests any specific discipline, including a Music Therapist, it is critical that the team handles the request thoughtfully. Refer to the Supports and Services Procedure.

Please remember:

- a. Services are **not discussed outside of an IFSP meeting**.
- b. All services must be **supported by outcomes** and included in the IFSP.

6. No Separate Assessment Required:

Adding a Music Therapist to an IFSP may not require a separate assessment from the initial or ongoing ones. Services should be designed to support the outcomes established in the IFSP, with **outcomes based on the family’s priorities and delivered through activity-based interventions**. The decision to provide an assessment must also be made through the IFSP team and during an IFSP meeting.

This addition to the Birth to Three data system and personnel standards supports our ongoing mission to provide comprehensive and family-centered services to children across Connecticut. Please keep in mind the following when adding a Music Therapist to your staff:

- Services must adhere to all standards and procedures of the Birth to Three System.
- Music Therapists must be considered as part of the larger transdisciplinary approach, ensuring that goals are family-centered, activity-based, and aligned with the child's IFSP.

For any questions or further clarifications, please feel free to reach out to our office. Thank you for your dedication to providing quality services to Connecticut’s children and families.