**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 and ongoing phase-in back to primarily in-person EIS.

**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 the end of the public health emergency (PHE) until the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has notified providers in writing the date when this procedure will be rescinded, the following components of the Remote EI Procedure are waived or revised as follows: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 written approval on Form 5-2 from the OEC to provide EIS via Remote EI is required when the IFSP indicates that a discipline will only be providing supports remotely;
* When applicable all IFSP reviews must add Remote EI as a potential method of service delivery (see *IFSP* procedure);
* 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 with prior written approval on Form 5-2 from OEC on a case-by-case basis 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 only with prior written approval on Form 5-2 from the OEC on a case-by-case basis.
  + Early Intervention Treatment Services (EITS): If a child’s family does not have synchronous audio-video communication capability, for one month, EITS may be provided via audio-only phone so the program can help the family access audio-video communication. Synchronous audio-video communication is the preferred method for remote EITS. In extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis when a family is unable to use access synchronous audio-video communication, audio-only phone EITS may be permissible for a longer period of time with prior written approval on Form 5-2 from the OEC.
* Parental Consent on Form 5-2 must be obtained within one week of the first Remote EI service and may be obtained through secured, HIPAA compliant electronic means.

**Appendix A:**

**List of OEC Approved Applications for Remote EI (as of June 1, 2021)**

**Overview**

All EIS Programs must follow the Remote EI procedure posted on [Birth23.org](file:///C:\Users\CossetteN\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\3LB503H8\birth23.org). It is essential to note that even though a platform has a HIPAA compliant option, all versions may not be HIPAA compliant (i.e., Zoom has a medical subscription, which is the **only** HIPAA compliant version).

A Business Associate Agreement (BAA) is required for HIPAA compliance.

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

* Am Well - <https://business.amwell.com/>
* Blue Jeans - <https://www.bluejeans.com/>
* Clocktree - [https://www.clocktree.com/](https://www.clocktree.com/forproviders?utm_source=Google%20Brand&utm_campaign=Clocktree&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=clocktree%20E)
* Doxy.me - <https://doxy.me/>
* Google G Suite - <https://gsuite.google.com/>
* GoToMeeting - <https://www.gotomeeting.com/>
* Lifesize - <https://www.lifesize.com/>
* Mega Meeting - [https://www.megameeting.com](https://www.megameeting.com/video-conferencing-webinar-meetings-pricing)
* MS Team - <https://products.office.com/>
* Ring Central - <https://www.ringcentral.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 follow that guidance as well. In addition, B23 programs are required to comply with all applicable federal requirements.