At Home Program Guidelines Therapist Assistants

Introduction

This document is intended to guide the safe, effective delivery of therapy services through the School-Aged Extended Therapies (SAET) benefit of the At Home Program. It applies to occupational therapy (OT), physiotherapy (PT) and speech-language pathology (SLP) services that are:

- funded by the SAET benefit
- delivered by a therapist assistant (TA), under the supervision of a therapist

These guidelines supplement the following practice standards of the relevant professional regulatory bodies and/or professional associations:

- College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia: <u>Assigning of Service Components to</u> Unregulated Support Personnel
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia: <u>Assignment of Task to a Physical Therapist</u> <u>Support Worker</u>
- College of Speech and Hearing Professionals of B.C.: <u>Standards of Practice Framework</u>

Guidelines

I. Requesting Funding Through the SAET Benefit

- SAET funding must be requested on an <u>At Home Program Request for School_Aged</u>
 Extended Therapies form that has been completed by the therapist who will:
 - o deliver services directly to the child and/or
 - o supervise the TA who will deliver services to the child
- The therapist requesting funding is responsible for ensuring that adequate insurance is in place for the delivery of services and that all relevant employer-employee obligations are met. The At Home Program cannot provide advice regarding employer-employee obligations

II. Supervision of Therapist Assistants

The therapist who completes and submits the <u>At Home Program Request for School_Aged Extended Therapies</u> form must provide supervision to the TA who will deliver services, in accordance with the practice standards of the relevant professional regulatory body and/or professional association

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- The At Home Program must be notified if there is a change to the supervising therapist. A new <u>At Home Program Request for School_Aged Extended Therapies</u> form may be required
- It is recommended that the supervising therapist document the tasks to be undertaken by a
 TA in a supervision plan, such as a Transfer of Function form. A sample forms are available
 on the Therapy B.C. forms page.
- In consultation with the child's parent/guardian and the TA, the supervising therapist must develop the following:
 - o a plan for the services to be delivered by the TA, and
 - o a plan for the regular evaluation of services delivered by the TA

III. Payment for Approved Services

- Invoices for approved services must be submitted by the therapist who has:
 - o delivered services directly to the child, and/or
 - o supervised the TA who delivered services to the child
- The At Home Program provides payment to therapists or agencies. Payment is not provided directly to TAs

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