

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF EARLY INTERVENTION
5% Rate Increase
Questions and Answers
May 17, 2019**

Summary

The 2019-20 Enacted Budget included a 5% early intervention (EI) rate increase for approved rehabilitation services rendered by licensed speech language pathologists, licensed occupational therapists and licensed physical therapists, including supplemental evaluation services. The rate increase is effective April 1, 2019 and is applicable to approved services provided on or after that date.

This rate increase was proposed following careful review of capacity rate data available to the NYS Department of Health (Department). While the Department recognizes and values the contributions of all EI service providers, the data shows that timeliness of services is most often impacted by the lack of availability for the provider types targeted in this rate increase. The increase is intended to help attract providers to begin providing EI services and to retain current EI providers, with the goals of increasing capacity, improving timeliness and quality of service delivery, and recognizing the specialized education and training of these service providers.

Contingent on having the necessary approvals and system requirements in place, the Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) will make retroactive adjustments to reimbursement for rehabilitation services and supplemental evaluations subject to the rate increase and provided by to licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists. These retroactive payments will be for rehabilitation services and supplemental evaluations that occurred between April 1, 2019 and the date the system requirements were in place.

Questions and Answers

1. When does the 5% increase begin?

The effective date of the increase is April 1, 2019. However, the implementation of the rate increase is contingent on approval of a Medicaid State Plan Amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and implementation of Early Intervention system changes. Early Intervention providers should continue to provide services, maintain required documentation, and submit claims as usual until these steps occur.

2. Is the 5% rate increase retroactive?

Yes, the 5% rate increase is retroactive to April 1, 2019 for rehab services or supplemental evaluations provided by licensed speech language pathologists, licensed occupational therapists and licensed physical therapists pursuant to a child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

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3. How should providers proceed with claims after April 1, 2019?

Contingent on having the necessary approvals and system requirements in place, BEI will make retroactive adjustments to reimbursement for rehabilitation services and supplemental evaluations subject to the rate increase and provided by licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists. These retroactive payments will be for rehabilitation services and supplemental evaluations that occurred between April 1, 2019 and the date the system requirements were in place.

4. Who is eligible to receive the increase?

The increase is targeted to services rendered by the licensed rehabilitation service providers listed below. Specific practitioner types and rate codes are as follows:

- Speech Language Pathologists including CFYs
 - Speech Language – Basic (5434), Speech Language – Extended (5453), Speech Language – Facility (5471), and Non-physician Supplemental Eval – Speech (5414)
- Physical Therapists
 - PT – Basic (5430), PT – Extended (5449), PT – Facility (5467), and Non-physician Supplemental Eval – PT (5410)
- Occupational Therapists
 - OT – Basic (5429), OT – Extended (5448), OT – Facility (5466), and Non-physician Supplemental Eval – OT (5409)

Note: The rate change does **not** apply to services delivered by any other Qualified Professional (QP) types including Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapy Assistants or other QP listed as a student/interns (other than CFYs).

5. Will the 5% increase apply to any services provided by a licensed Physical Therapist (PT) / Occupational Therapist (OT) / Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), or only services that are coded as being PT/OT/ST and provided by a licensed PT/OT/SLP?

The 5% increase applies only to rehabilitation services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy) provided to an infant or toddler through the Early Intervention Program, where the service is coded for claiming purposes as PT/OT/ST and provided by a licensed physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech-language pathologist. In addition to these direct rehabilitation services, supplemental evaluations furnished by these licensed practitioners are subject to the 5% rate increase.

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6. If a provider works for an agency, will the agency be required to pass the 5% increase on to the provider, or will it all be left up to existing contracts?

If a provider works for an agency, either as an employee or as a subcontractor, it is up to the agency whether to pass all or a portion of the 5% increase on to the provider.

7. How will the 5% rate increase be implemented in NYEIS?

The Department will provide further guidance on system considerations when the rate increase is implemented. Until further notice, providers should continue to render EI services, maintain required documentation, and submit claims as usual.

8. How does this impact the EI billing system (PCG)?

PCG is working with the Department on implementation of the rate increase.

9. Does this apply to Family Training that is conducted by a PT, OT or SLP?

No, the rate increase is specific to rehabilitation services furnished by PTs, OTs, or SLPs.

10. Does this rate apply to occupational, physical or speech therapy supplemental evaluations?

Yes, the rate increase applies to supplemental evaluations authorized as part of the child's IFSP.

11. Does the 5% rate increase apply to multidisciplinary evaluations?

No, the rate increase does not apply to multidisciplinary evaluations. The 5% rate increase does apply to supplemental evaluations provided by licensed rehabilitation therapists.

12. Does the 5% rate increase apply to family training?

No, the rate increase does not apply to family training.

13. Does the increase apply to the rate code for bilingual evaluation add on for Non-Physician (5418)?

No, the rate increase does not apply to rate code 5418 (bilingual evaluation add-on for Non-Physician).

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14. In what settings will the rate increase apply?

The 5% rate increase applies to home and community-based and facility-based early intervention services.

15. What are the new rates for licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists?

The new rates are listed by region in Table 1, below:

Table 1: EIP Rates for Rehabilitation Services and Supplemental Evaluations Provided by Licensed Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech-Language Pathologists

Occupational Therapy	5409	5429	5448	5466
Physical Therapy	5410	5430	5449	5467
Speech Therapy	5414	5434	5453	5471
Region	NON-PHYSICIAN EVALUATION RATE	BASIC HOME/COMM. BASED IND. RATE	EXTENDED HOME/COMM. BASED IND. RATE	CENTER BASED IND. RATE
ALBANY	\$166	\$65	\$90	\$49
BINGHAMTOM	\$176	\$68	\$92	\$51
CENTRAL RURAL	\$166	\$68	\$92	\$40
ERIE	\$166	\$67	\$91	\$49
ELMIRA	\$171	\$68	\$92	\$49
GLENS FALLS	\$154	\$65	\$90	\$46
LONG ISLAND	\$204	\$77	\$108	\$59
NEW YORK	\$213	\$79	\$110	\$63
NORTHERN RURAL	\$171	\$66	\$89	\$50
ORANGE	\$198	\$78	\$107	\$58
POUGHKEEPSIE	\$187	\$72	\$102	\$55
ROCHESTER	\$166	\$66	\$90	\$49
SYRACUSE	\$166	\$68	\$92	\$49
UTICA	\$161	\$66	\$89	\$48
WESTCHESTER	\$204	\$72	\$102	\$59
WESTERN RURAL	\$171	\$67	\$91	\$49