

# ACHIEVE TAMPA BAY THERAPY SERVICES

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE

### **Characteristics of Persons Served**

**Ages:** Children ages birth to adolescence (under 21 years of age) may be served.

**Medical Acuity & Medical Stability:** Children must be healthy and cleared for treatment by their physician. Children may not receive therapy services if they have medical conditions identified in the Therapy Illness Policy.

**Impairments & Activity Limitations:** Children served in therapy have disabilities/impairments that include but are not limited to the following: Developmental Delay, Cerebral Palsy, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, ADD/ADHD, Sensory Processing Issues, Orthopedic Disorders, Speech Delay, Genetic Disorders & Syndromes, Neurological Disorders, Medically Complex Disorders, Feeding Disorders, Spina Bifida, Mental Retardation, Behavior/Mental Health Issues, Vision/Hearing Disorder. Therapy staff available who speak Spanish to work with Spanish-speaking clients.

**Participation Restrictions, Psychological & Behavioral Status:** Children are eligible for services as long as they meet the minimum behavior expectations as outlined in the therapy program's Restriction of Rights and Crisis Intervention Policies.

**Admission Criteria:** Children who meet the funding criteria, who are experiencing delays or are at significant risk for delays in any area of development which negatively affect his/her functional performance and ability to participate in home, community, and school activities.

Children from birth through adolescence will be considered for evaluation.

- Financial responsibility is established following Finance Policy "Parental Financial Responsibilities for Therapy Services" TS4100.
- An evaluation is completed which identifies the need for intervention.
- Additional factors considered before admission include areas of expertise of therapy staff and availability of appropriate treatment materials and equipment. If a client would benefit from treatment, but is not approved for services at ATB due to the factors previously identified, he/she will be referred to other agencies who can provide needed services.
- Reports less than six months old from other agencies will be reviewed and may be accepted in lieu of performing an evaluation.
- Potential clients will be deemed eligible and medically stable to receive/undergo therapy services as determined by appropriate personnel including, but not limited to, adult guardian(s), therapist, ATB staff nurse, and physician.

**Discharge Criteria:** Children will be discharged according to the Discharge Process Policy.

It is the policy of Therapy Services to discharge clients who no longer demonstrate need for intervention, who do not appear to benefit from continued services, who are not meeting financial responsibilities to the agency, who do not meet the required attendance, at the request of the caregiver, or at the discretion of the agency.

- **No Longer Demonstrates Need:** If a child has demonstrated sufficient progress in therapy and testing reveals the child's skills are at age appropriate levels (i.e., no further intervention is indicated), the therapist will review the child's progress with the caregiver and plan a

discharge date. If the caregiver disagrees with the treating therapist about recommendations for discharge, the caregiver may initiate the grievance procedures.

- **Does Not Appear to Benefit:** Progress in therapy is reviewed biannually. If a client does not meet therapy goals and/or does not demonstrate progress on re-evaluation after six months in therapy, the treating therapist will discuss the lack of progress and the treatment plan with their clinical supervisor and the client's caregiver. They may revise the treatment plan to better fit the child's needs.

If a client does not meet therapy goals and/or does not demonstrate progress on a re-evaluation during the second six month treatment period, the treating therapist will discuss the treatment plan with their supervisor and the client's caregiver. An interdisciplinary team review shall be completed. This review shall follow the format outlined in the Therapy Ethics Guidelines. This discussion will include the possibility of revising the treatment plan, decreasing the frequency of sessions and discharge if no progress continues to be noted.

At the end of 18 months of treatment, if no progress has been noted and the above steps were taken, the client may be discharged.

- **Financial Responsibility:** If a family is not meeting financial responsibilities to the agency as outlined in TS4100, the client may be discharged from therapy.
- **Poor Attendance:** Poor attenders will be discharged per to the Participant Attendance Policy
- **Care giver Request:** Discharge will be completed upon caregiver request.
- **Agency Discretion:** The agency reserves the right to discharge any client at any time for any reason.

**Evaluation and Intervention:** Therapeutic evaluation and intervention is provided by state licensed and appropriately credentialed occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, and speech language pathologists. Physical therapy assistants provide services under the supervision of a physical therapist. Occupational therapy assistants provide services under the supervision of an occupational therapist. In a collaborative process with the child and his/her care giver, outcomes for therapeutic intervention are created and reassessed every six months to determine frequency and duration of service.

Occupational therapy evaluation and intervention focuses on factors affecting the child's independence in their occupations in the home, school, and play environments. A child's occupation includes play, learning, peer interaction, and self-care skill development. Intervention techniques utilized are based on clinical reasoning, theories of occupational therapy practice, and evidenced based practice. Intervention techniques include but are not limited to:

- Neurodevelopmental treatment approach.
- Sensory Integration techniques.
- Aquatic therapy.
- Normal development of fine motor skill activities.
- Visual motor development tasks.
- Adaptive equipment.

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- Positioning equipment.
- Oral motor intervention.
- Education of caregivers, client, and family members.

Physical therapy evaluation and intervention focuses on factors affecting mobility in the home, school, and play environments. Intervention techniques utilized are based on clinical reasoning, theories of physical therapy practice, and evidenced based practice. Intervention techniques include but are not limited to:

- Neurodevelopmental treatment approach
- Aquatic therapy
- Normal development of gross motor movement activities
- Adaptive equipment
- Positioning equipment
- Orthotic development
- Education of caregivers, client, and family members.

Speech therapy evaluation and intervention focuses on factors affecting the child's speech, language, and feeding skills in the home, school, and play environments. Intervention techniques utilized are based on clinical reasoning, theories of speech therapy practice, and evidenced based practice. Intervention techniques include but are not limited to:

- Normal developmental sequences of expressive and receptive communication.
- Oral motor intervention for feeding and swallowing safety.
- Articulation intervention techniques.
- Augmentative device selection and design.
- Education of caregivers, client, and family members.

**Settings, Hours & Days of Service:** Therapy services are provided at outpatient clinics located in Central Tampa (Henry) and Sun City Center for those families with adequate transportation and children who are medically stable. Therapy services are also provided in the home for families with limited transportation, for medically fragile children, and for those children served under the Early Steps program. Therapy services are provided for children attending local preschools and private schools while the child is at school in conjunction with their school day. Therapy services are provided between the hours of 8 AM and 6 PM, Monday through Friday.