OVERVIEW
Early intervention services promote the development of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and challenges. Services are delivered to children 3 years of age or younger that have or are at risk of developing a disabling condition or have other special need that may affect their development. The codes used for claim processing as published by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services are outlined in this policy. In addition, this policy is applicable only for Commercial products.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Prior authorization review is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT
Speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, evaluation, case management, nutrition, service plan development and review, nursing services, and assistive technology services and devices will be covered for members (age birth to 3 years) who are Rhode Island residents. All applicable coinsurances, copayments, deductibles, and benefit limits will not apply.

Rhode Island-mandated benefits generally do not apply to Plan 65, FEHBP, and Medicare Advantage plans. Groups that are self-insured may choose not to comply with state mandates and should refer to their member certificates for specific coverage regarding the Early Intervention Mandate.

MEDICAL CRITERIA
Not applicable

BACKGROUND
Effective January 1, 2014, qualified health plans (QHPs) are required to cover essential health benefits (EHBs), as defined in Section 1302(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Federal mandates regarding EHBs supersede RI state mandates with regards to removing any annual and lifetime dollar limits.

This is an administrative policy to document the following Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL)-Early Intervention Services (EIS): RIGL 27-20-50.

27-20-50 Coverage for early intervention services. – (a) Every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy or contract providing coverage for dependent children, delivered or renewed in this state on or after the effective date of this act [July 1, 2004], shall include coverage of early intervention services which coverage shall take effect no later than January 1, 2005. Such coverage shall be limited to a benefit of five thousand dollars ($5,000) per dependent child per policy or calendar year and shall not be subject to deductibles and coinsurance factors. Any amount paid by an insurer under this section for a dependent child shall not be applied to any annual or lifetime maximum benefit contained in the policy or contract. For the purpose of this section, “early intervention services” means, but is not limited to, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, evaluation, case management, nutrition, service plan development and review, nursing services, and assistive technology services and devices for dependents from birth to age three (3) who are certified by the
(b) Subject to the annual limits provided in this section, insurers shall reimburse certified early intervention providers, who are designated as such by the Department of Human Services, for early intervention services as defined in this section at rates of reimbursement equal to or greater than the prevailing integrated state/Medicaid rate for early intervention services as established by the Department of Human Services.

(c) This section shall not apply to insurance coverage providing benefits for: (1) hospital confinement indemnity; (2) disability income; (3) accident only; (4) long-term care; (5) Medicare supplement; (6) limited benefit health; (7) specified disease indemnity; (8) sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; and (9) other limited benefit policies.

Based on a collaborative approach between families and professionals, early intervention services promote the development of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and challenges. Services are delivered to children 3 years of age or younger who have, or that are at risk of developing a disabling condition, or other special need, that may affect their development. These services may be either remedial or preventive in nature.

Early intervention may focus on the child individually or on the child and the family together. Early intervention programs may be center-based, home-based, hospital-based, or any other combination. Services range from identification of development delays and challenges (hospital or school screening and referral services) to diagnostic and direct intervention programs and may begin at any time up to the age of three years. While the child’s development is enhanced, the family is able to receive support and assistance.

List of Early Intervention Providers in RI
http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/ProviderSearch.aspx

RI Medical Assistance Claim Reimbursement Guidebook for Early Intervention Services for 2017

COVERAGE
Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable Early Intervention benefits/coverage.

Please note that generally benefits that are available from other sources, such as those mandated by federal or state law or through legal action, are not covered. Please refer to your member certificate/subscriber agreement contract for further details.

CODING
The following codes are covered under a part of an Early Intervention Program. To ensure correct claims processing, claims must be filed with the correct modifier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92522EP</td>
<td>Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria)</td>
<td>Append Modifier 52 for reduced services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92523EP</td>
<td>Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language)</td>
<td>Append Modifier 52 for reduced services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92557EP</td>
<td>Comprehensive audiometry threshold evaluation and speech recognition</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Developmental testing, (includes assessment of motor, language, social, adaptive, and/or cognitive functioning by standardized developmental instruments) with interpretation and report

Physical therapy evaluation: low complexity
Physical therapy evaluation: moderate complexity
Physical therapy evaluation: high complexity
Re-evaluation of physical therapy
Occupational therapy evaluation, low complexity
Occupational therapy evaluation, moderate complexity
Occupational therapy evaluation, high complexity
Occupational therapy re-evaluation

Mental health services, not otherwise specified

Comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation

Patient education, not otherwise classified, non-physician provider, group, per session

Case management, each 15 minutes

Screening to determine the appropriateness of consideration of an individual for participation in a specified program, project or treatment protocol, per encounter

Evaluation and treatment by an integrated, specialty team contracted to provide coordinated care to multiple or severely handicapped children, per encounter

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T1024TLHO  Evaluation and treatment by an integrated, specialty team contracted to provide coordinated care to multiple or severely handicapped children, per encounter

T1027EP  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027AE  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027AJ  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027HP  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027TG  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027TD  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027TGHO Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027GN  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027GO  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027GP  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T1027HN  Family training and counseling for child development, per 15 minutes
T2004EP  Non-emergency transport; commercial carrier, multi-pass
T5999EP  Supply, not otherwise specified
V2799EP  Vision service, miscellaneous
V5008EP  Hearing screening
V5010EP  Assessment for hearing aid

Units:
For current information on allowed units please refer to the Rhode Island Department of Health Services in the Claims section:
http://www.dhs.ri.gov/ChildrenwithSpecialNeeds/EarlyInterventionProgram/tabid/839/Default.aspx

RELATED POLICIES
Not applicable

PUBLISHED
Provider Update, February 2018
Provider Update, February 2017
Provider Update, January 2015
Provider Update, November 2013
Provider Update, August 2013
Provider Update, August 2010
Provider Update, July 2008
Provider Update, September 2006

REFERENCES
1. Rhode Island Department of Health Early Intervention.
http://www.dhs.ri.gov/ChildrenwithSpecialNeeds/EarlyInterventionProgram/tabid/839/Default.aspx
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