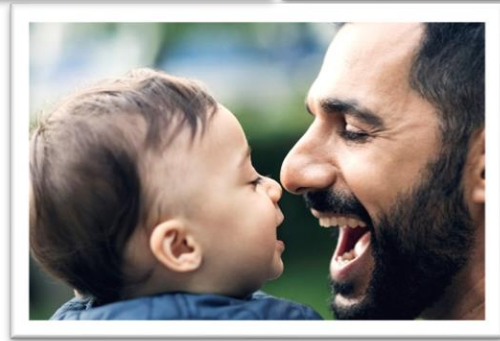


# Telehealth Guidance Update

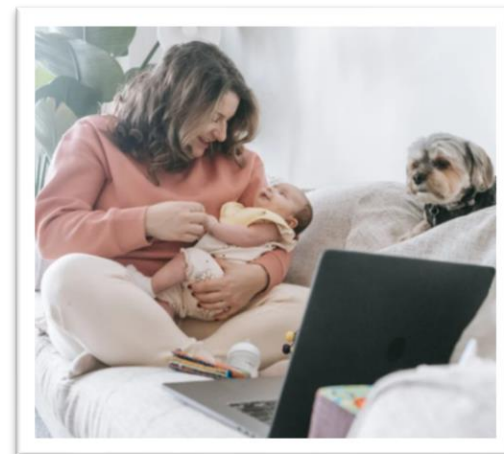


Jessica Simmons  
Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic  
Improvement Plan Unit  
Bureau of Early Intervention



# Telehealth Guidance

- Revised/Combined Telehealth Frequently Asked Questions # 1 - 62
- Revised Telehealth Consent Form
- Telehealth Guidance Document



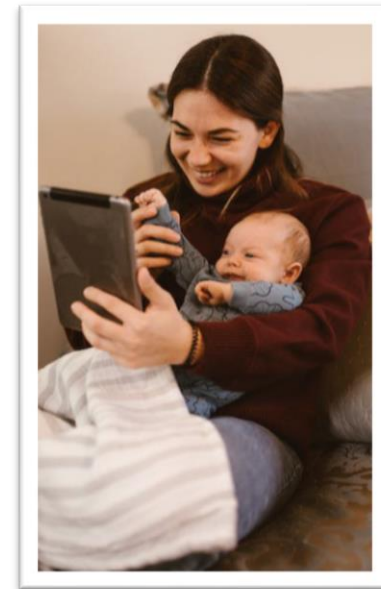
# Telehealth Guidance Document

- Most Early Intervention services will be delivered in person
- Early Intervention providers must be capable of delivering services in person
- Telehealth remains a service option with parental consent
- In collaboration with stakeholders, the Department will continue to:
  - assess the impact of telehealth on child/family outcomes
  - review the telehealth literature
  - Identify any necessary changes to guidance



# Telehealth Guidance Document

- Background
- Benefits, Barriers, and Approaches to Teletherapy
- Considerations Before Conducting Evaluations
- Developing Individualized Family Service Plans
- Introducing and Effectively Incorporating Teletherapy into Early Intervention Supports and Services
- Appendices
  - Checklists
  - References and Resources
  - Revised Consent Form



# Introducing and Effectively Incorporating Telehealth into Early Intervention Supports and Services – Service Coordination

- Best practice is for the first meeting between the initial service coordinator and family to be in person
- The service coordinator must explain the full range of service options available
- Emphasize parent choice



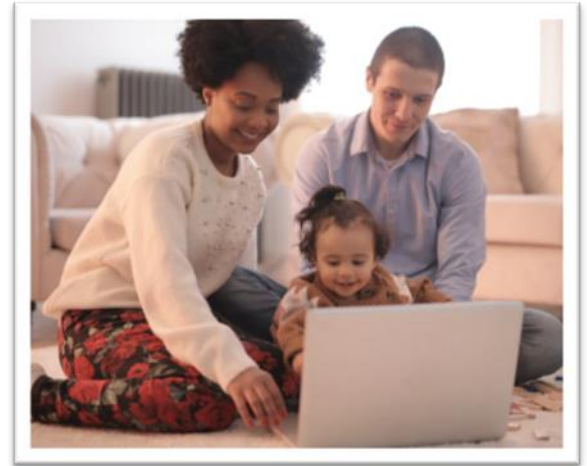
# Telehealth Evaluations

- Telehealth multidisciplinary evaluations are NOT intended to be routinely conducted – exception, rather than the rule
- Most evaluations are conducted in person, unless there are extenuating circumstances
- Justification must be included in the report
- Technology is needed to support both simultaneous audio and visual components of an evaluation



# Telehealth Services

- Most services will be delivered in person
- Telehealth remains an option for providing Early Intervention services with parental consent and in accordance with the Individualized Family Service Plan
- The Individualized Family Service Plan team should discuss all service delivery types and methodologies that may be appropriate for the child and family
  - In-person, telehealth, or a combination of these (i.e., hybrid approach)
- When family chooses telehealth – the benefits of using a hybrid model should be discussed



# Claiming for Services Via Telehealth

- Telehealth visits are reimbursable with parental consent and in accordance with the child's Individualized Family Service Plan – per the New York State Department of Health Early Intervention Program service rates
- Where necessary, evaluations may also be provided via telehealth
- Need parental consent for telehealth – use Department's form
- Simultaneous audio and video
- Group services – only Family/Caregiver Support Groups
- Providers must document in their session notes or evaluation report, that the session was delivered using telehealth
- Providers must maintain all required documentation





# Questions?

