

The following chart describes the difference between: The **Education Model** and the **Medical Model** for providing Occupational and Physical Therapy

	<b>EDUCATIONAL MODEL</b>	<b>MEDICAL MODEL</b>
How does it start?	Teacher, Parent or guardian can ask the IEP team to consider the need for an evaluation	Referral is initiated by a physician based on an observed delay or diagnosis
What are the legal requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational and Physical therapy are considered related service in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004).</li> <li>Related services are provided if needed to children in special education and are primarily to help the child participate in the special education program</li> </ul>	State licensure requirements and public and private funding requirements
Who decides the need for service?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IEP team, based on the evaluation data and recommendations from OT/PT therapist(s)</li> <li>Assessment takes into consideration ONLY needs associated with special education program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation and clinical observation by OT/PT therapist(s)</li> <li>Assessment takes all setting into consideration</li> <li>Frequently driven by doctor's orders</li> </ul>
What is the purpose of the evaluation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute knowledge and data to the IEP team for discussion and decisions</li> <li>Identify areas of strengths and needs</li> <li>Guide goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine need for services</li> <li>Identify areas of strengths and needs</li> <li>Guide goals</li> </ul>
Who decides scope of service?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OT/PT therapist(s)</li> <li>Recommendations and decisions are based on the student's total education plan to benefit the student's special education instruction to make progress in the general curriculum and participate in activities to the best of his/her abilities</li> <li>An outside therapist's recommendations or a doctor's order does not drive decisions about school-based therapy services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical team determines location, focus, frequency and duration of therapy, this is a unilateral recommendation based on medical needs</li> <li>Insurance coverage, doctor's orders and transportation may be determining factors</li> </ul>
Where does therapy occur?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total school environment – classrooms, therapy room, lunchroom, related arts, playground, hallways, bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the clinic, hospital, rehabilitation facility, home health agency, nursing home, or home</li> </ul>

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What is the focus of therapy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to special education and school environment</li> <li>• Works toward independence and participation</li> <li>• Intervention for problems that interfere with the educational process</li> <li>• If the child does not need special education services, then the child is not eligible to receive the therapy as a related service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If refers to treatment that a child needs for medical reasons</li> <li>• Therapy addresses medical conditions and impairment</li> <li>• Works to get full potential realized</li> <li>• Intervention usually for acute problems</li> <li>• It is a global approach considering whole life, restorative, and the ability to function in any aspect of daily life</li> </ul>
How is therapy delivered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct services can be pull out, push into the classroom, integrated with another discipline, or group intervention</li> <li>• Indirect services are consultative with teacher and/or staff, staff training, program development</li> </ul>	Direct one-on-one treatment to accomplish set goals
How are services documented?	Related to IEP with accessible, readable language guided by state and local policy reflecting best practice	Dictated by insurance requirements and guidelines of setting; emphasis on medical terminology and billing codes
How can services be changed?	Changes to related services require an IEP meeting with parents, educators, administrators and the school-based therapist(s) present to discuss and come to a consensus	Doctors can alter orders or therapist can change therapy plan, generally discussed with the doctor and parents
Who pays for the therapy?	Therapies that are included as related services under IDEA are provided by the public-school system	Paid by parent/patient, insurance, government assistance, etc.

Can both educational and medical based therapies occur for the same student?

YES!!! When they are both occurring, both therapists can and should communicate with one another to help the student/patient achieve the highest possible function.