Annual Physical Therapy Visit-Pediatric
Frequently Asked Questions

This document is designed for use by pediatric physical therapists.

What is the value of doing the Annual Physical Therapy Visit?

Regardless of setting, the Annual Physical Therapy (PT) Visit can be used as a tool to educate families and to identify resources to support the children and families. The document can be used over the lifespan of a child for episodic care. Additionally, therapists can choose to monitor key items that become problematic for a child over time.

How is this different from a well-child visit with the pediatrician?

A pediatrician provides medical assessment, diagnosis, and interventions, while a physical therapist is a movement system expert who provides support for the participation of children in daily life. The Annual PT Visit will assess multiple areas of functioning relevant to the movement system to promote participation in home, school and community, activities.

Is the Annual PT Visit appropriate for all children across settings?

Yes, children and youth across various settings can benefit from an Annual PT Visit to identify risk factors, and review current status, needs, challenges and progress.

How long will this take to complete?

The Annual PT Visit is designed to take less than 60 minutes depending on the child and family's individual needs. Further evaluation can be scheduled as needed to address significant findings.

How is the information for the template collected?

The information can be collected via in-person or virtual interview of the patient or caregiver(s), from the child's medical record, from school records, and from other existing documentation. The document can also be updated with new information at subsequent visits.

Can the template be modified?

Yes, the PT should collect the information relevant to their setting. Elements of the template can be incorporated into current documentation and be modified to meet the needs of children and youth.

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Can this template be used as an evaluation?

Yes, this document can help PTs monitor children's needs periodically over the lifespan beyond discharge and/or beyond a single episode of care. Elements of this template can be used to observe, screen, document, and identify presenting movement challenges.

Who might the physical therapist refer individuals to?

Referrals may include, but are not limited to, the child's pediatrician, other medical specialists, physical therapists in other settings (e.g. hospital, school, or community), Early Intervention, community recreation/adaptive sports programs, or durable medical equipment providers.

How would you bill for the Annual PT Visit?

The Annual PT Visit can be billed as a physical therapy evaluation. Cash based practices can use it as a marketing tool e.g. charge a nominal fee for an Annual PT Visit or include it as part of a concierge/follow up service.

How should I prepare to conduct the Annual PT Visit?

Many of the standardized tests and measures suggested in the template may already be familiar to you. Familiarize yourself with the template and the resources provided. You may want to discuss it with colleagues or practice with a child prior to functional use.

I am not familiar with the movement screen. Where can I find more information?

The movement screen is a tool developed by the APTA designed to detect movement impairments in individuals across the lifespan observed during functional tasks and activities. It may help you decide which additional tests and measures to include in the examination.