Clinical vs. School-Based Therapy

Clinical

School-Based

Purpose

Supports access to the home and community

Supports access to education

Focuses on medical conditions and impairments

Promotes independence, access, and participation in the school setting

Eligibility

Physician makes a referral

Teacher, parent, or other individual requests a team evaluation

Child has a documented medical diagnosis

Child meets the criteria of one of the special education categories under IDEA and demonstrates a need that impacts his performance in the school setting

Evaluation & Determination

Assessments and observation in the clinic, home, or community

Therapist's evaluation determines the plan of care, which is shared with the rest of the medical team and caregivers.

Observation in the school environment and standardized tests assessments

Therapist's evaluation is used by the educational team to make decisions about education plan and to write the IEP.



Clinical

In the clinic, hospital, or home

On school grounds, hallways, playground, buses, classrooms, lunchroom

Service Delivery

Direct, one-on-one treatment sessions (occasionally groups)

Direct, one-on-one, group, or classroom sessions

Education provided to caregivers/family

Consultation and collaboration with teachers. support staff, parents, and administrators

Documentation and Payment

Documentation is provided based on insurance requirements with use of billing codes

Payment for services is made by family or insurance

Progress is monitored for IEP goals and reported at regular intervals throughout the school year

No cost for services, schools may participate in schoolbased Medicaid programs for reimbursement