

Frequently Asked Questions for the Early Intervention Program 4 percent Rate Modifier

1. What Early Intervention services are eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier?

Screenings, multidisciplinary evaluations (MDEs), supplemental evaluations, bilingual add-ons, and the following general services authorized as Basic Home and Community visits: Speech therapy, Occupational therapy, Physical therapy, and Special Instruction. All eligible services must be delivered in person.

2. Does the 4 percent rate modifier apply to evaluations and/or services delivered via Telehealth?

Telehealth services are not eligible for the modifier. Only in-person services are eligible.

3. Are hybrid MDEs subject to the 4 percent rate modifier?

Yes. Hybrid MDEs where one qualified professional (QP) is in person and the other QP is evaluating the child via telehealth (with parental consent), are reimbursed at the in-person rate. Therefore, hybrid MDEs would be subject to the 4 percent rate modifier. The location of the MDE should be included in the evaluation report.

4. Are Group Developmental services or Facility-based services eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier? What about Extended Home and Community visits?

Group services and facility-based services are not eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier.

5. How were zip codes selected to be eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier?

Zip codes were selected that met at least one of the following criteria: a) poverty threshold for region, b) rural threshold for region and c) number of days awaiting services greater than the county's average. Zip codes were subject to an additional threshold that at least 65% of core services were delayed.

6. If a child is residing in an eligible zip code, but their family is traveling to a different zip code (either community location or daycare), will the service be eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier?

Yes, the 4 percent rate modifier is based on the child's residential zip code.

7. My county has zip codes that meet the rural and poverty thresholds but were not selected. Please explain.

The zip codes did not meet the 65% threshold for delayed "core" services.

8. My county has zip codes selected that are in an affluent area and did not meet the poverty threshold. Please explain.

The zip codes selected met either the rural threshold or the number of days waiting for services threshold.

9. If a zip code is listed in County A but the town is shared with County B, does the modifier apply to both counties?

Yes, children residing in that zip code would be eligible for the 4 percent rate modifier in both counties.

10. Some of the zip codes in the Attachment are not in our county but in a contiguous county. Is this an error?

Some zip codes are shared by more than one county based upon the Data.NY.GOV website. The zip codes are shared by the counties and the 4 percent rate modifier will be applicable to each one. For example, 12083 is in both Albany and Greene County.

11. Is our county missing a zip code because zip codes are shared?

No. Other zip codes in your county were not excluded; they did not meet the criteria for the county.

12. Do counties or providers need to take any action to implement the 4 percent rate modifier for eligible service claims?

The counties and providers **do not** have to take any additional action in the data system. The EI-Hub will apply the 4 percent rate modifier based on the service type and child's residential zip code.

13. When will we start seeing 4 percent added to eligible service claims?

Public Consulting Group estimates that the 4 percent rate modifier will begin to be processed prospectively for new claims payable from municipal escrow submitted by the end of December 2025, in the EI-Hub for escrow eligible payments.

For EI Medicaid claims, the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) is updating eMedNY to be able to process the 4% rate modifier. The Department estimates that OHIP can implement the rate modifier in eMedNY in February 2026, for claims payable from Medicaid.

More information regarding retroactive reimbursement back to April 1, 2025, will be forthcoming.

14. How often will the zip codes be reviewed?

The eligible zip codes will be reviewed annually and revisions to the list of eligible zip codes will be effective at the start of the next Program Year on July 1.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the Bureau of Early Intervention at eip.fiscal@health.ny.gov or by phone at (518) 473-7016.