

How to Obtain Services

There are three main ways to obtain services for your child:

Through Your Health Insurance

Medical insurance varies widely depending on your policy, however some therapies such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy may be covered through your insurance. We suggest you read your policy carefully to determine coverage, or call your insurer to discuss your options.

Through the Regional Center System

Children, from birth to 36 months, with developmental delays qualify for the Early Start Program. By definition, infants diagnosed with PWS will qualify for the Early Start Program. In California this federally mandated program is administered through the Department of Developmental Services which contracts with twenty-one Regional Centers throughout California.

Often the hospital or your child's doctor will make the referral to your local Regional Center, however parents can make a self-referral to request an evaluation by contacting the Regional Center that services your area. Once a referral to Regional Center has been made, a service coordinator will arrange for an assessment of your child to determine eligibility and develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) based on your child's needs.

From the assessment intake, a plan will be created with your input for providing your child with early intervention services. Before they will begin to provide or pay for some services, the Regional Center may require a letter from your insurance company denying they will pay for that service.

After age 3, your local school district is responsible for providing services that relate to your child *accessing his or her educational environment*. PWCF strongly recommends that parents do *not* let the Regional Center close your child's case. PWCF will help you appeal a Regional Center's decision to deny eligibility for Lanterman Services so that your child maintains eligibility beyond age 3 years through the Lanterman Act.

Private Pay

Of course parents always have the option to privately pay for any or all therapies that their child needs. Some parents choose to privately pay for additional therapy or for therapy that is not covered elsewhere.