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Guidelines For The Reporting Of Medicaid For Speech/Language Therapy Services Revised December 9, 2015

Speech/Language Therapy Services including evaluations must be indicated on the student's IEP and the student **MUST** be Medicaid eligible to be reimbursable through Medicaid funding. At the beginning of each school year, a student's IEP should be reviewed for the level of services and to review the goals. The IEP is the tool used to document how the student's special need in relation to their disability will be met within the context of their educational environment.

Speech/Language Therapy Services can be provided by a NYS licensed and currently registered Speech/Language Pathologist or a Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped (TSHH) or Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) certified to provide Speech/Language Therapy Services "under the direction of" a qualified NYS licensed and currently registered Speech/Language Pathologist. Medicaid providers must be qualified in accordance with the requirements of 42 CFR Section 440.110(c) and applicable state and federal laws and regulations, acting within his/her scope of practice under New York State law. Speech/Language Pathologists licensed by the State of New York are qualified Medicaid providers regardless of whether they are also ASHA certified.

Access to students with Speech/Language Therapy Services will be provided in IEP Direct, as appropriate.

Speech/Language Pathologists/Therapists will be notified of the students who are Medicaid eligible on a periodic basis.

Parental consent to bill Medicaid must be on file.

License/certification of the Speech/Language Pathologists/Therapist must be on file and currently registered. Registration of their license is the responsibility of the Speech/Language Pathologists and to ensure registration is current.

Speech/Language Pathologists must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.

A Confidentiality statement must be signed and dated and on file for the use of electronic signatures in IEP Direct and for confidentiality purposes.

State mandated trainings, IEP Direct trainings and written guidelines for the reporting of Medicaid for the purpose of Medicaid reimbursement will be provided, as needed and as necessary. Open lines of communication with the Director of Special Education and the Medicaid Compliance Officer will remain available for questions and concerns.

“UDO” Supervision will be in place, as needed.

“Under the direction of” means that the qualified practitioner:

- Sees the student at the beginning of **each IEP period** and periodically during treatment.
- Is familiar with the treatment plan as recommended by the referring/ordering physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts practicing under State law.
- Has input into the type of care provided.
- Has continued involvement in the care provided, and reviews the need for continued services throughout treatment.
- Assumes professional responsibility for the services provided under his or her direction and monitors the need for continued services.
- Spends as much time, as necessary, directly supervising services to ensure students are receiving services in a safe and efficient manner in accordance with accepted standards of practice.
- Ensures that providers working under his or her direction have contact information to permit them direct contact with the supervising therapist, as necessary, during the course of treatment.
- Keeps documentation supporting the supervision of services and on-going involvement in the treatment of each student.
- **In addition, the supervising therapist must meet with the providers working under his or her direction at least quarterly. These meetings must be documented, signed and dated.**
- Will review all daily session notes and will sign/date the daily session notes signed by the Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped (TSHH) or Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) in IEP Direct within 30 days.
- Will co-sign student’s Present Level of Performance on the IEP written in IEP Direct.
- Will review and co-sign all reports, reevaluations, evaluations and assessments completed by the Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped (TSHH) or Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD).
- Will sign and date all quarterly progress notes.

****The Speech/Language Pathologist will be notified by the Teacher of the Speech and Hearing Handicapped (TSHH) or Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities**

(TSSLD) whenever there is a clinically significant change in the condition or performance of the student, so that appropriate supervisory action can take place.

The requirements for Medicaid Reimbursement of Services under the SSHSP are as follows:

- Student MUST be Medicaid eligible and be under the age of 21.
- Student is determined to have a disability through the IEP process and have an IEP.

To qualify for reimbursement under New York State Medicaid, SSHSP services must be:

- Medically necessary and included in a Medicaid covered category (Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, etc.).
- Ordered/referred by a practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice. The ordering/referring provider must also be enrolled as a NYS Medicaid ordering/referring provider.
- Included in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Provided by qualified professionals under contract with or employed by the school district.
- Furnished in accordance with all requirements of the State Medicaid Program and other pertinent state and federal laws and regulations, including those for provider qualifications, comparability of services, and the amount, duration and scope provisions.
- Included in the State's Medicaid Plan and/or available under Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).

*****A Speech/Language Therapy Evaluation must be on file prior to the start of services documented on the student's IEP. *****

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) does not establish Medical Necessity:

- Related Services are "designed to enable a child with a disability to receive a free appropriate public education" or "to benefit from special education".
- SSHSP services are a subset of IDEA-defined Related Services.
- The IEP determines which Related Services are needed to facilitate the student's education progress; therefore, does not constitute medical necessity.
- The written referrals/orders that are in the student's record document medical necessity.

There must be a signed/dated written order/referral requesting Speech/Language Therapy services from a physician, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner or a speech/language pathologist, who is state licensed and currently registered. The ordering/referring provider must also be enrolled as a NYS Medicaid provider.

The signed/dated written order/referral must contain the following information:

- The name of the child for whom the order/referral is written.
- The Service being ordered.

- Frequency and duration noted on the order/referral or by explicit reference to the IEP (the frequency and duration of the ordered/referred service(s) in the IEP).
- The time period for which services are being ordered (Example: September 8, 2015 through June 23, 2016 or the 2015-2016 School Year).
- Student's diagnosis and/or reason/need for services.
- ICD-10 Code.
- Name, title, signature of a NYS licensed and currently registered physician, a physician assistant, a licensed nurse practitioner, or a speech/language pathologist acting within his/her scope of practice. The ordering/referring provider must also be enrolled as a NYS Medicaid ordering/referring provider.
- The complete date the order/referral was written and signed (Example: April 16, 2016).
- The ordering/referring practitioner's National Provider Identifier (NPI) number or license number.
- Ordering/referring practitioner's contact information (office stamp or preprinted address label can be used and telephone number).

The student's IEP reflects the Related Service of Speech/Language Therapy, showing start/end dates, ratio, frequency, period, duration, and location.

Documentation must be kept for each student's Speech/Language Therapy services. The documentation will be noted as "**Session Notes**". All session notes for all students (whether Medicaid-eligible or not) will be entered into the Related Service Log of IEP Direct.

Session notes should consist of the following information:

- Student's name.
- Specific type of service provided.
- Whether the service was provided individually or in a group (specifying the actual group size).
- The setting in which the service was rendered (public school and specific building, BOCES School and location, clinic, other).
- Date and time the service was rendered (length of session – record session start time and end time).
- Brief description of the student's progress made by receiving the service during the session.
- Name, title, signature, NPI number (credentials) of the person furnishing the service and name, title, signature, NPI number (credentials) of supervising clinician, as appropriate.
- Appropriate CPT Code must be included for billing purposes.
- **NOTE:** Session notes are direct contact time. There is no separate reimbursement for recordkeeping time.

Co-treatment:

- Co-treatment consists of more than one professional providing treatment at the same time.
- Therapists, or therapy assistants, working together as a “team” to treat one or more individuals must now bill separately for the same or different service provided at the same time to the same individual.
- Effective October 20, 2014, districts are no longer permitted to bill more than one therapy type on one Medicaid claim.
- Therapists must submit separate individual claims for each service type billed.
- Procedure code modifiers will now be used to distinguish one therapy type from another during the billing process.
- Procedure code modifiers are: Speech Therapy – GH; Occupational Therapy – GO; Physical Therapy –GP).
- The use of these procedure code modifiers is not optional.
- Procedure code modifiers have been implemented in IEP Direct for the billing process.

Documentation of Consulting Services:

- Consultation between clinical and/or instructional staff should be documented as the professional/clinician sees fit.
- Consultations between/among professionals are not Medicaid reimbursable under SSHSP.

Make-up Therapy Sessions:

In order for a make-up therapy session to be Medicaid reimbursable, it must be consistent with the written order/referral and must:

- Be a service that is documented in the IEP.
- Occur **within the week** the missed visit occurred.
- Be documented (session notes must be kept for each session including made up sessions).
- Be provided by a NYS licensed and currently registered Speech/Language Pathologist qualified in accordance with 42 CFR Section 440.110 (c), and applicable state and federal laws and regulations, acting within his/her scope of practice under New York State law or a teacher certified to provide Speech/Language services of such a qualified licensed and currently registered Speech/Language Pathologist, acting within his/her scope of practice under New York State Law.
- Fit with the desired treatment outcome.

The 8-Minute Rule:

- The 8-Minute Rule is a Medicare billing construct that has to do with billing partial units when using timed CPT codes. The 8-Minute rule indicates that in order to bill for each additional time-based code, you must spend at least eight minutes of each unit providing direct service to the patient. In other words, in order to bill for a 15 minute code, the

session must be at least eight minutes long. ***Note that if the total treatment time code is less than 8 minutes, then the treatment alone is non-billable.*** The first procedure must be at least 8 minutes, with each one, thereafter, billed in 15-minute increments. A minimum session length of twenty-three minutes is required in order to bill for two units. Only direct, face-to-face time with the patient is considered for timed codes.

Speech/Language Therapy sessions are 30-minute sessions and are **untimed CPT codes**.

- However, because of the School Supportive Health Services Program (SSHSP), services must be delivered in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP); **it is expected that the length of the session billed would reflect the actual length of the therapy session that was furnished and be consistent with the time frame specified in the student's IEP.**

Contemporaneous notes as related to recordkeeping or session notes constitute:

- The duties of the provider are discussed in Social Services Law at 18 NYCRR Section 504.3(a).
- Providers must prepare and maintain contemporaneous records that demonstrate the provider's right to receive payment under the Medicaid Program.
- "Contemporaneous" records means documentation of the services that have been provided as close to the conclusion of the session as practicable.
- In addition to preparing contemporaneous records, providers in the Medicaid Program are required to keep records necessary to disclose the nature and extent of all services furnished and all information regarding claims for payment submitted by, or on behalf of, the provider for a period of **six years from the date the care, services or supplies were furnished or billed, whichever is later.**
- Medicaid documentation no longer required can be destroyed after six years.

Retention of Medicaid Records:

Providers in the Medicaid Program are required to keep records necessary to disclose the nature and extent of all services furnished and all information regarding claims for payment submitted by, or on behalf of, the provider for a period of six years after Medicaid reimbursement.

The 2009 Settlement and Compliance Agreement between New York State and the federal agencies effectively ended the January 2002 SED directive that all Medicaid records since January 1, 1990 for reimbursement under School Supportive Health Services be held/retained until further notice. The normal retention policy now in effect is to retain the following records for a minimum of six years from the date that the services were paid.

- All documents relating in any manner to Medicaid reimbursement for services.
- All documents relating in any manner to referrals, prescriptions or orders for these services.
- All documents relating in any manner to the provision of these services; including but not limited to those showing dates that services were provided, the specific service that was

provided, those that identify the professional providing the services or under whose direction the services were provided and professional qualifications, progress and other notes, memoranda, correspondence, e-mails, reports, transportation logs and other documents relating to services rendered, as appropriate to the service provided.

- All Individualized Education Programs (will be held on file at District Office and are available in IEP Direct).
- **PLEASE NOTE:** You may need to retain some or all of these documents for a longer retention period than six years due to other retention requirements.
- Medicaid documentation may be destroyed after six years after Medicaid reimbursement, in accordance with District Policies.

Services Provided by Student Interns:

- Medicaid reimbursement is available when individual or group therapy is being provided under the direct, face-to-face supervision of a New York State licensed and currently registered practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice.
- To be Medicaid reimbursable, a session involving a student intern must be conducted with the licensed clinician **in continuous attendance** with the student intern and the child or children receiving the service.
- The qualified practitioner must be guiding the student intern in service delivery and cannot be engaged in treating another child, supervising another student intern, or doing other tasks at the same time.
- The qualified practitioner is responsible for the services that are furnished to the child, including writing a session note that reflects the service that was delivered and signing all documentation.
- It is permissible, but not necessary, for the student intern to sign the session note.
- A separate note may be written by the student intern for educational purposes.

Corrections/Edits:

- **White out is not acceptable.**
- Scribbling over is not acceptable.
- Corrections/edits are struck through with one single line and then initialed by the practitioner.

Group/Individual Session during the same day for Speech/Language Therapy:

- Billing for both individual and group services provided to the same student in the same day is allowed, provided the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rules for individual and group therapy are both met.
- The Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits require the group therapy and the individual therapy to occur in different sessions, time-frames or separate encounters that are distinct or independent from each other when billed on the same day.

- A Medicaid claim with two units of CPT Code 92508 may be submitted only when the student receives two distinctly separate group speech therapy sessions on the same day and **one of the sessions is a make-up for a session missed during the same week or cycle.**
- A Medicaid claim with two units of CPT codes 92507 or 92526 may be submitted only when the student receives two distinctly separate individual speech therapy sessions on the same day and **one of the sessions is a make-up for a session missed during the same week or cycle.**

Push-in Speech/Language Therapy:

- Therapy provided in the classroom (push-in) may only be billed to Medicaid if the servicing provider can document the occurrence of appropriate one-on-one or group (sized up to five students) services provided and meet all other Medicaid billing documentation requirements.
- Classroom instruction (acting as a teacher aide) is not a Medicaid reimbursable service, regardless of the amount of time spent instructing the Medicaid eligible student(s).

Back-to-Back Therapy Sessions:

- Back-to-back therapy sessions are Medicaid reimbursable.
- If the sessions were delivered consistent with the written order/referral, the IEP and Medicaid policy (e.g.: to be Medicaid reimbursable the speech therapy must be a minimum of 30 minutes and properly documented) then Medicaid may be billed for the sessions.
- Session notes must always document the actual time in/time out.
- If the first session was from 12:00-12:30 P.M. for Student A and second session was from 12:30-1:00 P.M. for Student B, the session notes must reflect that.

Medicaid Reporting:

- Session notes are entered in the RS Log of IEP Direct.
- Session notes should be entered in the RS Log of IEP Direct on a daily basis.
- To be contemporaneous, best practice is that session notes should be completed within 5 days of the service provided.
- Claiming for Medicaid reimbursement is completed in-house through Medicaid Direct.

Progress Reports:

- Monthly progress reports are no longer needed for Medicaid reporting.
- Quarterly progress reports are not needed for Medicaid reporting; however, quarterly progress reports are required under IDEA.
- Quarterly progress notes should include the present level of performance of the student and the progress that the student is making toward meeting projected outcomes of goals, and/or objectives of the Speech/Language Therapy services as specified on the IEP.

For Reevaluation, the following should be in place **prior** to testing:

- Recommendation for the reevaluation is indicated in the student's IEP prior to the reevaluation being conducted.
- Consent for reevaluation signed and dated by the parent. (After written attempts to acquire parental consent have been unsuccessful, the reevaluation can take place.)
- Signed/dated written order/referral containing the following information:
 1. The name of the child for whom the order/referral is written.
 2. The Service being ordered (Evaluation).
 3. The time period for which services are being ordered (Example: September 9, 2015 through June 25, 2016 or 2015-2016 School Year).
 4. Student's diagnosis and/or reason/need for referred services.
 5. ICD-10 Codes.
 6. Name, title, signature of a NYS licensed and currently registered physician, a physician assistant, a licensed nurse practitioner or a speech/language pathologist acting within his/her scope of practice. The ordering/referring provider must also be enrolled as a NYS Medicaid ordering/referring provider.
 7. The complete date the order/referral was written and signed (Example: April 17, 2016).
 8. The ordering/referring practitioner's National Provider Identifier (NPI) or license number.
 9. Ordering/referring practitioner's contact information (office stamp or preprinted address label can be used and telephone number).

To be Medicaid reimbursable, a reevaluation must be:

- Medically necessary.
- Ordered/referred by a qualified provider.
- Completed by a Medicaid qualified provider.
- Documented with a written report that details evaluation results.
- Included in the student's IEP.

After the reevaluation testing has taken place, the results of the testing, the date and name of the reevaluation, along with the CPT Code for Reevaluation will be entered into IEP Direct. A CSE Meeting will take place to review the Speech/Language Testing, the need for the service and the goals.

Speech/Language Evaluations are Medicaid reimbursable, if a student becomes or is classified or for reevaluations, if the appropriate documentation is on file and the IEP documents the recommendation for the reevaluation and the services. Billing for this service will take place electronically through Medicaid Direct. Please be sure to include the appropriate CPT Code on the Speech/Language Evaluations.

Speech/Language Therapy services should be reviewed yearly.

Reevaluation testing is necessary, should the Speech/Language Therapist deem **declassification** for this service is appropriate. Please be sure to follow the requirements for reevaluation listed above.

Evaluating a Student Outside a Reevaluation Year:

Reevaluation outside a student's reevaluation year would need to take place to increase services or declassify. The following should be in place prior to this evaluation:

- Consent for reevaluation signed and dated by the parent.
- Signed/dated written Speech/Language Order/Referral containing the following information:
 1. The name of the child for whom the order/referral is written.
 2. The Service being ordered (Evaluation).
 3. The time period for which services are being ordered (Example: September 9, 2015 through June 25, 2016 or 2015-2016 School Year).
 4. Student's diagnosis and/or reason/need for referred services.
 5. ICD-10 Code.
 6. Name, title, signature of a NYS licensed and currently registered physician, a physician assistant, a licensed nurse practitioner or a speech/language pathologist acting within his or her scope of practice. The ordering/referring provider must also be enrolled as a NYS Medicaid ordering/referring provider.
 7. The complete date the order/referral was written and signed (Example: April 17, 2016).
 8. The ordering/referring practitioner's National Provider Identifier (NPI) or license number.
 9. Ordering/referring practitioner's contact information (office stamp or preprinted address label can be used and telephone number).

Name changes:

- Should a practitioner change their name due to marriage, divorce, etc., they should always sign their name as it appears on their registration.
- Practitioners are required by NYSED to change their name with the Office of the Professions (OP) within 30 days of any legal name change.
- The name will be changed in the official database and will display immediately on the website on-line license verification page.
- A new registration certificate displaying the new name will be mailed to the address on record.
- Practitioners are not required to get a new license parchment.
- The Office of the Professions has specific requirements for submitting name/address changes.
- Practitioners should also change their name with the NPI within 30 days of any legal name change.

Electronic Signatures:

- Electronic signatures are acceptable, if adequate security is in place and confidentiality is maintained.
 - The use of an electronic signature has the same validity as a signature affixed by hand.
 - Providers must be prepared to authenticate or prove that the record was electronically signed by the person authorized to sign the record.
 - The provider's electronic record must have control features, such as individual passwords for electronic signatures.
 - The sharing of passwords is prohibited.
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Random Moment in Time Study:

- A Random Moment in Time Study (RMTS) is a mechanism for identifying the amount of time SSHSP practitioners spend delivering Medicaid reimbursable activities.
- It is important to note that RMTS is NOT a management tool used to evaluate staff activities or performance.
- The Random Moment in Time Study is a state requirement.
- Medicaid qualified clinicians who perform direct service activities (including “under the direction of” and “under the supervision of” activities) should be participating.
- Notification of your Random Moment in Time Study comes through your e-mail.
- You have 2 days to respond to your e-mail.
- This should only take you a few minutes to respond.
- There are only a few questions to answer.
- Print out your results when prompted for your own record.
- Keep your password for future reference. Each new school year, you will be provided a new password for the RMTS.

The information discussed below is not a part of the requirements for Medicaid billing; however, these are the procedures to follow in preparation of Annual Reviews.

The following is needed in **preparation of Annual/Reevaluation Reviews** for each student:

- Speech/Language Therapy Report showing Progress, Abilities, Strengths, and Needs.
- Related Service Form completed showing your recommendations for the following school year.
- Reevaluation Review report, if completed.
- Request for Extended School Year Services, if applicable, including your supporting data.

- Information updated in IEP Direct, **10 days prior to meeting.**
- Goals entered in IEP Direct, if appropriate, **10 days prior to meeting.**
- If you are the Case Manager, please submit Report Card, Attendance and Progress Report.

Your information should be submitted for Annual/Reevaluation Reviews as follows:

- **Originally-signed** Speech/Language Therapy Report, Speech/Language Therapy Evaluations, Request for Extended School Year Services, along with your supporting data and the Related Service Form showing your recommendations for the following school year, should be sent to **District Office, 10 days prior to the meeting.**
- **Signed copies** of Speech/Language Therapy Report, Speech/Language Therapy Evaluations, Request for Extended School Year Services, along with your supporting data and the Related Service Form showing your recommendations for the following school year, should be sent to the student's Case Manager and/or the School Psychologist, as appropriate, and to the building CSE Secretary, **10 days prior to the meeting.**