



**Texas State Billing Services, Inc.**

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*Providing Medicaid Consultancy and Administration Services to  
Texas Schools. . . for Texas Children*

## **SHARS BILLING UPDATE**

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### **HHSC Releases Two New Service Codes**

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) released the codes and billing rates for two new service areas. Group speech (provided by SLP's) and Individual School Health Services provided by LVN/LPNs are now reimbursable, retroactive back to 9/1/2004. Group speech rate is \$3.95 per 15 minute unit and LVN/LPN School Health Services rate is \$11.03 per 15 minute unit of service.

We are still awaiting the release of group services for OT, PT, Counseling, Audiology and Nursing, along with Group and Individual services provided by assistants (COTA, LPTA, SLPA) and Routine Oral Medication Administration provided by RN's, LVN's and delegated individuals.

Personal care services (including Life Skills classes and Transportation aides) is also still pending.

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### **DOCUMENTATION REMINDER:**

The student's Medicaid number must be on all pages of the IEP and/or ARD documents that discuss the need for a service and the delivery of the service.

Also, in order to be billed under SHARS a service must be included in the IEP or ARD documentation. This includes Personal Care Services, Special Transportation, and Transportation Aides.

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### **Speech Supervision Requirements**

It was recently reported that it was no longer a requirement for a school district to have ASHA certified or ASHA-equivalent SLP's supervise other speech language pathologists.

**THIS IS NOT TRUE.**

In order to bill services for the SHARS program, a TEA Certificate SLP, Texas Licensed SLP, a Texas Limited License for SLP and a TX Licensed Assistant in SLP must be supervised by an ASHA certified or an ASHA-equivalent SLP.

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### **2005 TEXAS MEDICAID MANUAL CHANGES**

The 2005 Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual has been published. It is also available on line at: [www.tmhp.com](http://www.tmhp.com) (several versions are available for download)

Changes to the 2005 manual are as follows:

#### **Assessment**

Added to Billable time includes:

- Necessary observation of the student associated with testing.
- Parent consultation (student present) that is required during the assessment due to a student's inability to communicate or perform certain required activities.

#### **Medical Services**

Added: Services reimbursable under SHARS medical services are diagnostic and evaluation services. A physician prescription/referral is required before physical therapy (PT) or occupational therapy (OT) services can be reimbursed under the SHARS program. Speech therapy services require either a physician prescrip-

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tion/referral or one from a licensed SLP before the speech therapy services can be reimbursed under the SHARS program. The SHARS provider must maintain the physician prescription/referral. The physician prescription/referral must relate directly to the specific service(s) listed in the IEP. If a change is made in the IEP related to a service requiring a physician prescription/referral, the physician prescription/referral must be revised accordingly.

The expiration date for the physician prescription/referral is the lesser of the expiration date designated by the medical services provider on the prescription/referral or three years in accordance with the IDEA three-year re-evaluation requirement.

### **School Health Services**

Added: School health services are skilled nursing tasks as defined by the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) and included in the student's IEP. Examples of reimbursable school health services include, but are not limited to: inhalation therapy, ventilator monitoring, nonroutine medication administration, tracheostomy care, gastrostomy care, ileostomy care, catheterization, tube feeding, suctioning, client training, and assessment of the student's nursing and personal care services needs.

While the procedure code description states up to 15 minutes, the Medicaid-allowable fee is determined based on 15-minute increments. Therefore, providers must bill based on 15 minutes as the unit of service. Minutes of school health services cannot be accumulated across calendar days. If the total number of minutes of school health services delivered by an RN/APN is less than eight minutes for a calendar day, then no unit of service can be billed for that day and that day's minutes cannot be added to minutes of school health services from any previous day or any subsequent days for billing purposes.

All actual minutes of school health services delivered by an RN/APN must be accumulated for the calendar day for the student before converting to units of service for billing purposes. In other words, do not convert minutes of school health services to units of service for each nursing task throughout the calendar day.

### **Speech Therapy**

Added:

#### **Provider and Supervision Requirements**

Speech therapy services are eligible for reimbursement when provided by or under the direction of an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)-certified SLP who holds a Texas license or by an ASHA-equivalent SLP (master's degree and Texas license).

These are also the only positions that do not require supervision and that can supervise other providers of speech therapy services. The supervision must meet the following provisions:

- The supervision SLP provides sufficient supervision to ensure appropriate completion of the responsibilities assigned.
- Documentation exists of direct involvement of the supervising SLP in overseeing the services provided
- The SLP providing the direction must ensure that the personnel carrying out the directives meet the minimum qualifications set forth in the rules of the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology relating to Licensed Interns or Assistants in Speech-Language Pathology.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) interpret "under the direction of a speech-language pathologist," as the speech-language pathologist who:

- Is directly involved with the individual under his direction
- Accepts professional responsibility for the actions of the personnel he agrees to direct.
- Sees each student at least once.
- Has input about the type of care provided.
- Review the student's speech records after the therapy begins.
- Assumes professional responsibility for the services provided.