

2022-2023 Texas Medicaid Provider Procedure Manual School Health and Related Services (SHARS)

SHARS is a Medicaid service. SHARS allows local school districts or shared services arrangements to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for certain health-related services included in the student's IEP. SHARS providers are reimbursed the federal share of the payment when services are provided to students who meet all of the following requirements:

- Are Medicaid eligible and under 21 years of age
- Meet eligibility requirements for special education
- Have IEPs that prescribe the needed services

2.3.3 Occupational Therapy

OT evaluation services include determining what services, assistive technology, and environmental modifications a student requires for participation in the special education program.

Occupational therapy services include the following:

- Improving, developing, maintaining, or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation.
- Improving the ability to perform tasks for independent functioning when functions are impaired or lost.
- Preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

Occupational therapy uses purposeful activities to obtain or regain skills needed for activities of daily living (ADL) and/or functional skills needed for daily life lost through an acute medical condition, acute exacerbation of a medical condition, or chronic medical condition related to injury, disease, or other medical causes.

ADLs are basic self-care tasks such as feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting, grooming, and mobility.

A prescription is required for OT services. The prescription must be updated a minimum of one time every three calendar years.

Occupational therapy services must be prescribed by a physician or other eligible prescribing provider. A prescription for OT services must be signed and dated within three calendar years before the initiation of services.

In order for OT services to be reimbursed through SHARS, the name and national provider identifier (NPI) of the prescribing licensed physician, or other eligible prescribing provider, must be listed on the claim and kept in the medical record.

IDEA requires that a student receiving SHARS services must have a re-evaluation every three years, which requires current information; unless the parent and the LEA agree that a re-evaluation is unnecessary (IDEA §1414 (a)(2)(B)).

A physician's prescription is not required for a re-evaluation.

The need for a re-evaluation should be determined by the student's ARD committee.

The LEA must maintain the prescription in the client's record.

Occupational therapy must be provided by a professional who is licensed by the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners to provide OT within his or her licensed scope of practice. An occupational therapist assistant (OTA) must act under the supervision of a qualified occupational therapist.

Services provided by an unlicensed person acting under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist are not a benefit of Texas Medicaid.

OT treatment may be provided in an individual or group setting.

OT evaluation is billable on an individual basis only.

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If an evaluation is performed over several days, the provider must submit the same evaluation procedure code for each evaluation session. The procedure code submitted must reflect the complexity level of the entire evaluation.

The therapist who performs the evaluation should use professional clinical judgment to decide which evaluation code to use. The selection of low, moderate, or high complexity evaluation codes must be based on professional clinical judgment and may not be made by staff other than the rendering therapist.

The occupational therapist or OTA can only bill for time spent with the student present, including time spent assisting the student with learning to use adaptive equipment and assistive technology.

Time spent without the student present, such as training teachers or aides to work with the student (unless the student is present during the training time), report writing, and time spent manipulating or modifying the adaptive equipment is not billable.

Session notes are required.