

# 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

### 2.3.7 Psychological Testing and Services

#### 2.3.7.1 Psychological Testing

Psychological Testing Services include the following activities:

- Administering psychological tests and other assessment procedures and interpreting testing and assessment results
- Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about a student's behavior and conditions related to learning and functional needs, planning, and managing a program of psychological services
- Evaluating a student for the purpose of determining the student's eligibility for specific psychological, health or related services, the needs for specific SHARS services, and the development or revision of IEP goals and objectives
- Assessing the effectiveness of the delivered services on achieving the goals and objectives of the student's IEP

Billable time includes the following:

- Psychological, educational, or intellectual testing time spent with the student present
- Necessary observation of the student associated with testing
- A parent or teacher consultation with the student present that is required during the assessment because a student is unable to communicate or perform certain activities
- Test interpretation and report writing

Psychological testing is billable if it leads to the creation of an IEP for a student with disabilities who is eligible for Medicaid and who is 20 years of age or younger, whether or not the IEP includes SHARS.

An assessment write-up during an ARD meeting is billable, however, participation in the ARD meeting itself is not billable under SHARS.

Psychological testing must be provided by a professional who is a licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP), a licensed psychologist, or a licensed psychiatrist in accordance with 19 TAC 89.1040(b)(1) and 42 CFR 440.60(a).

A prescription is not needed to provide psychological testing through SHARS.

When billing, minutes of psychological testing are not accumulated over multiple days. Psychological testing can only be billed based on accumulated time per calendar day.

Session notes are not required; however, documentation must include the billable start time, billable stop time, and the total billable minutes, and must note which assessment activity is performed (i.e., testing, interpretation or report writing).

Providers may bill in partial hours, expressed as 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an hour (six-minute segments).

Example: Express 30 minutes as a billed quantity of 0.5.

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## ***Psychological Testing and Services (continued)***

**IMPORTANT:** The recommended maximum billable time is eight hours over a 30-day period. Time spent interpretation of testing results without the student present is billable time. Providers must maintain documentation as the reasons for the additional time if more than the recommended maximum time is billed.

### ***2.3.7.4 Psychological Services***

Psychological services are counseling services provided to help a child with a disability benefit from special education and must be listed in the IEP.

Psychological services must be provided by a licensed psychiatrist, a licensed psychologist, or an LSSP.

School districts may contract for specific types of psychological services, such as clinical psychology, counseling psychology, neuropsychology, and family therapy, that are not readily available from the Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) who is employed by the school district. 22 TAC §465.38 (Psychological Services for Schools) does not prohibit public schools from contracting with licensed psychologists, licensed psychological associates, and provisionally licensed psychologists who are not LSSPs to provide psychological services, other than school psychology, in their areas of competency. Such contracting must be on a short-term or part-time basis and cannot involve the broad range of school psychological services listed in 22 TAC §465.38(b)(1).

School districts may receive reimbursement for emergency psychological services if the student's IEP includes a behavior improvement plan (BIP) that documents the need for emergency services.

Psychological services are billable on an individual or group basis only. Session notes are required. Session notes must include billable start time, billable stop time, total billable minutes, activity performed during the session, student observation, and the related IEP objective.

School districts may receive reimbursement for emergency psychological services as long as the student's IEP includes a behavior improvement plan that documents the need for emergency services.

Services are limited to a total of three units (one hour) per day, any provider, as follows.

- The initial 30-minute unit is limited to one unit per day.
- Each additional 15-minute is limited to two units per day.

**IMPORTANT:** The recommended maximum billable time for direct psychological therapy (group and/or individual) is a total of one hour per day for non-emergency situations. Providers must maintain documentation as to the reasons for the additional time, if more than the recommended maximum time is billed.



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