

## 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

### **2.3.1 Audiology Services**

Audiology services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identification of children with hearing loss
- Determination of the range, nature, and degree of hearing loss, including the referral for medical or other professional attention for the amelioration of hearing
- Provision of amelioration activities, such as language amelioration, auditory training, speech reading (lip reading), hearing evaluation and speech conversion
- Determination of the child's need for group and individual amplification
- Hearing services

To be reimbursed for hearing aid devices and accessories, and fitting and dispensing visits and revisits, audiologists and hearing aid fitters and dispensers employed by or contracted with school districts must enroll in Texas Medicaid as individual practitioners and choose "Hearing Aid" on the enrollment application. Hearing aids and fittings are not covered by the SHARS program.

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

Audiology services must be referred by a physician or other eligible referring provider. A referral for audiology services must be signed and dated within three calendar years before the initiation of services.

In order for audiology services to be reimbursed through SHARS, the name and national provider identifier (NPI) of the referring licensed physician, or other eligible referring provider, must be listed on the claim and kept in the medical record. Audiologists whose evaluations serve as the referral must be enrolled in Medicaid as individual practitioners and must use their individual NPI for claim submission.

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 referral is not required for a re-evaluation. The need for a re-evaluation should be determined by the student's ARD committee. The school district must maintain the referral in the client's record.

Audiology services must be provided by a professional who holds a valid state license as an audiologist or by an audiology assistant who is licensed by the state when the assistant is acting under the supervision of a qualified audiologist.

Only the time spent with the student present is billable; time spent without the student present is not billable. Direct audiology evaluation time with the student present is billable. Indirect time for interpretation and report writing is not billable.