



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

3.3.2 Counseling Services

Counseling services are provided to help a child with a disability benefit from special education and must be listed in the IEP. Counseling services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assisting the child or parents in understanding the nature of the child's disability
- Assisting the child or parents in understanding the special needs of the child
- Assisting the child or parents in understanding the child's development
- Health and behavior interventions to identify the psychological, behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and social factors that are important to the prevention, treatment, or management of physical health problems
- Assessing the need for specific counseling services

Counseling services must be provided by a professional with one of the following certifications or licensures: a licensed professional counselor (LPC), a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT).

Counseling services are billable on an individual or group basis. Session notes are required, and documentation must include the 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 counseling services as long as the student's IEP includes a behavior improvement plan that documents the need for emergency services.

Providers must use a 15 minute unit of service for billing.

IMPORTANT: The recommended maximum billable time is one hour per day. Providers must submit documentation of the reasons for the additional time, if more than the recommended maximum time is billed.