



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

3.3.3 Psychological Testing and Services

3.3.3.1 Psychological Testing

Evaluations/assessments include activities related to the evaluation of the functioning of a student for the purpose of determining eligibility, the needs for specific SHARS services, and the development or revision of IEP goals and objectives. An evaluation/assessment 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.

Evaluations/Assessments must be provided by a professional who is a licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP), a licensed psychologist, or a licensed psychiatrist.

Evaluation/Assessment 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/teacher consultation with the student present that is required during the assessment because a student is unable to communicate or perform certain activities
- Time spent without the student present for the interpretation of testing results
- Report writing

Time spent gathering information without the student present and observing a student is not billable evaluation/assessment time.

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 1/10th of an hour (six-minute segments).

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

When billing, minutes of Evaluations or Assessments are not accumulated over multiple days. Minutes of Evaluations or Assessments can only be billed per calendar day.

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.

3.3.3.2 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, licensed psychologist or an LSSP. Nothing in this rule prohibits public schools from contracting with licensed psychologist, licensed psychological associates, and provisionally licensed psychologists who are not LSSPs to provide psychological services, other than school psychology, in their areas of competency. School districts may contract for specific types of psychological services, such as clinical psychology, counseling psychology, neuropsychology, and family therapy, which are not readily available from the LSSP employed by the school district. 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(1)(B).

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.

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

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.