



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

3.3.9 Speech Therapy

3.3.9.1 Referral

The name and complete address or the provider identifier or license number of the referring licensed physician or licensed SLP is required before Speech therapy (ST) services can be billed under SHARS. A licensed SLP's evaluation and recommendation for the frequency, location, and duration of ST serves as the speech referral.

3.3.9.2 Description of Services

ST evaluation services include the identification of children with speech or language disorders and the diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech and language disorders. ST services include the provision of speech and language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative disorders.

Type of ST Evaluations:

- Evaluation of Speech Fluency
- Evaluation of Speech Sound Production
- Behavioral & Qualitative Analysis of Voice and Resonance
- Evaluation of Speech Sound Production w/evaluation of Language Comprehension & Expression

ST evaluation is billable on an individual basis only. ST evaluations are limited to a total of 12 units and may be reimbursed for each client per provider in a 30-day period.

ST evaluations will be denied if it is submitted with the same date of service as another ST evaluation. Time spent without the student present, such as report writing and training teachers or aides to work with the student (unless the student is present during training), is not billable. Session notes are not required; however, documentation must include the billable start time, billable stop time, total billable minutes, and must note the activity that was performed (e.g., speech evaluation).

ST is billable on an individual or group basis. Providers can only bill time spent with the student present, including assisting the student with learning to use adaptive equipment and assistive technology. Session notes are required and must include the billable start time, billable stop time, total billable minutes, activity performed during the session, student observation, and the related IEP objective.

3.3.9.3 Provider and Supervision Requirements

ST services are eligible for reimbursement when they are provided by a qualified SLP, who holds a Texas license or an ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)-equivalent SLP (has a master's degree in the field of speech-language pathology and a Texas license). ST services are also eligible for reimbursement when provided by an SLP with a state education agency certification, a licensed SLP intern, or a grandfathered SLP when acting under the supervision or direction of an SLP, or a licensed assistant in speech-language pathology acting under the supervision or direction of an SLP.

The supervision must meet the following provisions:

- The supervising SLP must provide supervision that is sufficient to ensure the appropriate completion of the responsibilities that were assigned.
- The direct involvement of the supervising SLP in overseeing the services that were provided must be documented.
- The SLP who provides the direction must ensure that the personnel carrying out the directives meet the minimum qualifications set forth in the rules of the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology relating to Licensed Interns or Assistants in Speech-Language Pathology.

CMS interpret "under the direction of a speech-language pathologist," as an SLP who:

- Is directly involved with the individual under his direction.
- Accepts professional responsibility for the actions of the personnel he agrees to direct.
- Sees each student at least once.
- Has input about the type of care provided.
- Reviews the student's speech records after the therapy begins.
- Assumes professional responsibility for the services provided.

Providers must use 15 minutes unit of service for billing.

IMPORTANT: The recommended maximum billable time for evaluation is three hours, which may be billed over several days. The recommended maximum billable time for direct therapy (group and/or individual) is a total of one hour per day. Providers must submit documentation as to the reasons for the additional time if more than the recommended maximum time is billed.