

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

2.3.9 Speech and Language Services

Speech and language services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identification of students with speech or language disorders
- Diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language disorders
- Referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language disorders
- Provision of speech or language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative disorders.

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

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

In order for ST 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. Speech therapists 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.

Speech and language services must be provided by a qualified Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), who holds a Texas license or an American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)-equivalent SLP (has a master's degree in the field of speech-language pathology and a Texas license).

Speech and language services can also be provided by an SLP with a TEA certification (according to Texas Occupations Code §401.054), a licensed SLP intern, or a grandfathered SLP when acting under the supervision or direction of a licensed SLP, or a licensed assistant in speech-language pathology acting under the supervision or direction of an SLP.

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Speech Therapy (continued)

2.3.9.1 Supervision Requirements for SLPs

A supervisor of an intern or assistant shall:

- Ensure that all services provided are in compliance with 16 TAC §111.154 and current state licensure

A supervisor of an assistant shall:

- Be responsible for evaluations, interpretation, and case management
- Not designate anyone other than a licensed speech-language pathologist or intern in speech-language pathology to represent speech-language pathology to an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) meetings, except as provided by TAC §111.51 and §111.52.

A licensed intern or assistant shall abide by the decisions made by his or her supervisor relating to the intern's or assistant's practice and duties. If the supervisor requests that the intern or assistant violate this policy, the Act, or any other law, the intern or assistant shall refuse to do so and immediately notify the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and any other appropriate authority.

The SLP who provides the direction must ensure that the personnel who carry out the directives meet the minimum qualifications set forth in the rules of the TDLR that relate to Licensed Interns or Assistants in Speech-Language Pathology.

CMS interprets "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.