

Bulletin Number: MSA 15-22

Distribution: School Based Services Providers and Billing Agents

Issued: June 1, 2015

Subject: Telepractice for Speech-Language and Audiology Services

Effective: July 1, 2015

Programs Affected: Medicaid School Based Services

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish policy regarding telepractice for speech-language and audiology services provided within the School Based Services (SBS) program. This policy is effective for dates of services on or after July 1, 2015.

Telepractice is the use of telecommunications and information technologies for the exchange of encrypted patient data for the provision of speech-language and audiology services. Telepractice must be obtained through real-time interaction between the patient's physical location (patient site) and the provider's physical location (provider site). Services are provided to patients through hardwire or internet connection. It is the expectation that providers, facilitators and staff involved in telepractice are trained in the use of equipment and software prior to servicing patients. Speech-language and audiology services administered by telepractice are subject to the same provisions as services provided to a patient in person. Refer to the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual, School Based Services Chapter, Speech, Language and Hearing Therapy Section for complete coverage information.

Providers of telepractice services must be currently licensed in the State of Michigan as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) or audiologist. Telepractice services must be provided by a fully-licensed SLP or audiologist, or by a practitioner who holds a limited license and is under the direction of an enrolled, fully-licensed provider of the same profession. Providers must ensure the privacy of the beneficiary and the security of any information shared via telemedicine. The technology used must meet the needs for audio and visual compliance in accordance with current regulations and industry standards. Refer to the General Information for Providers Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual for complete Health Insurance Portability and Affordability Act (HIPAA) compliance requirements.

The patient site may be located within the school, at the patient's home, or any other established site deemed appropriate by the provider. It must be a room free from distractions so as not to interfere with the telepractice session. A facilitator must be trained in the use of the telepractice technology and physically present at the patient site during the entire telepractice session to assist the patient at the direction of the SLP or audiologist.

Billing Instructions

Telepractice services are billed using the same procedure codes as services rendered to a patient who is physically present. In addition to the procedure code, billers use the "GT" modifier to identify services provided by telepractice. Refer to the SBS database on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Billing and Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information >> School Based Services for a complete listing of procedure codes applicable to SBS.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved



Stephen Fitton, Director
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