

**Distribution:** Hospitals 04-10  
Hearing and Speech Centers 04-01  
Hearing Aid Dealers 04-01  
Practitioners 04-07  
Medical Suppliers 04-06

**Issued:** August 1, 2004

**Subject:** Provision of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services to Beneficiaries Under 21 Years of Age;  
Requirements for Audiologists

**Effective:** September 1, 2004

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has notified the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) that beneficiaries under 21 years of age may not be restricted to hearing and speech centers to receive outpatient speech-language pathology (SLP) and audiology services.

Effective September 1, 2004, a hospital enrolled in Medicaid may provide SLP and audiology services to Medicaid and/or CSHCS beneficiaries of all ages in the inpatient or outpatient setting. Services must be provided by properly credentialed hospital staff in accordance with policy outlined in the Hospital Chapter of the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Medicaid will adjust the outpatient hospital and hearing and speech center fee screens to reflect consistent reimbursement across both provider types for SLP and audiology services.

### **Requirements for Audiology Services Provided to Beneficiaries of All Ages**

Effective May 7, 2004, Public Act 97 of 2004, requiring the regulation of audiologists, was enacted. Effective September 4, 2004, the practice of audiology is restricted to those who possess a license unless they are specifically exempt from licensure.

In a hospital or a hearing and speech center, audiology services other than newborn hearing screening tests must be provided by:

- A licensed audiologist possessing a current Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).
- An audiologist candidate (i.e., in his clinical fellowship year or having completed all requirements but has not obtained a CCC) supervised by a licensed audiologist having a current CCC.
- An audiology student completing his clinical affiliation under the direct supervision of (i.e., in the presence of) a licensed audiologist having a current CCC.

Standards of practice must conform to those published in ASHA Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Audiology. Audiologic test equipment and hearing aid test equipment used must conform to applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI) criteria.

Audiology newborn hearing screening tests must be performed by staff trained in the screening of infant hearing via the auditory brainstem response method and/or the evoked otoacoustic emissions method. Medicaid requires appropriate interaction with parents/guardians and the medical team, and the proper filing of paperwork with the State's monitoring program.

### **Requirements for Audiology Services Provided to Infants**

The following equipment must be available to audiologists providing audiology services to infants less than six months of age in a hospital or hearing and speech center:

#### Infant Diagnostic Testing

- Tone Burst ABR; and
- Bone Conduction ABR; and
- High Frequency Immittance; and
- Otoacoustic Emissions

#### Infant Hearing Aid Evaluation, Selection and Follow-Up

- Infant Predictive Method (e.g., Desired Sensation Level); and
- Real-Ear to Coupler Difference

### **Manual Maintenance**

Retain this bulletin for future reference.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Support, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231 or e-mail [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto: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 telephone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approval**



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