**Guidance for** **Speech, Language, and Hearing Services in the Wyoming School-Based Services Program**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Wyoming School-Based Services (SBS) Program was authorized through the [School-Based Services Act (SF0079).](https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021/SF0079) The program was implemented in July 2022 in collaboration with the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). This program authorizes Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to receive Medicaid reimbursement for certain health-related services provided by qualified practitioners to Medicaid enrolled students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

To be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, services must be referred by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of their practice under state law and must be medically necessary. One of the service categories eligible for reimbursement in the SBS program is speech, language, and hearing services.

This document is a resource guide to support the speech, language, and hearing providers who deliver services through the Wyoming SBS Program. Additional information regarding the Wyoming SBS Program can be found in the [Wyoming SBS Program Provider Manual](https://www.wyomingmedicaid.com/portal/sites/default/files/inline-files/Manuals_and_Bulletins/School_Based_Services_Manual_12_30.pdf). Additional resources for speech, language, and hearing providers are highlighted below.

**SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SERVICES**

Speech, language, and hearing services are services provided for the diagnosis and treatment of speech and language disorders, which result in communication disabilities, and for the diagnosis and treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphagia), regardless of the presence of a communication disability. Audiology services are for the diagnosis and treatment of issues effecting hearing and balance, including hearing loss to evaluate and treat hearing, balance, and tinnitus disorders.

Services may include the direct assistance with the selection, acquisition, training, or use of an assistive technology device. Speech services may be provided in an individual or group setting. Services may include, but are not limited to, testing or clinical observation as appropriate for chronological or developmental age for one or more of the following areas of functioning:

* Hearing aid evaluation;
* Auditory training;
* Training for the use of augmentative communication devices;
* Auditory acuity, speech detection, and speech reception threshold;
* Auditory discrimination in quiet and noise;
* Impedance audiometry, including tympanometry and acoustic reflex;
* Central auditory function; and
* Testing to determine the child’s need for individual amplification; selection and fitting the aids.

**ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS FOR** **SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SERVICES**

For the SBS Program, speech, language, and hearing services may be provided by the following Medicaid providers:

* Audiologists: Must be licensed by the Wyoming State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, follow the [Wyoming Statutes § 33-33-102 through 33-33-204](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf), and meet the requirements in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §440.110.
* Speech pathologists: Must be licensed by the Wyoming State Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, follow the [Wyoming Statutes § 33-33-102 through 33-33-204](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf), and meet the requirements in 42 CFR §440.110.
* Speech-language pathology assistants: Must be certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, meet all requirements as outlined in [Wyoming Statutes § 33-33-102 through 33-33-204](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf), and must work under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.
* Speech-language pathology aides: Must meet all requirements as outlined in [Wyoming Statutes § 33-33-102 through 33-33-204](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf) and must work under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

The table below displays the allowable speech, language, and hearing provider types with their associated taxonomy codes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Individual Provider** | **Taxonomy** |
| Audiologist | 231H00000X |
| Speech Therapist | 235Z00000X |
| Speech Language Assistant | N/A |
| Speech Language Aide | N/A |

**COMMON CPT/HCPCS CODES FOR SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SERVICES**

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) / Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes are a collection of codes that represent procedures, supplies, products, and services which may be provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. SBS Program providers must use the appropriate billing CPT or HCPCS code based on the student’s plan of care or assessment needs. The table below displays common billing codes for speech, language, and hearing services for the SBS Program.

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| --- | --- |
| **Speech, Language, and Hearing Services** | |
| **CPT Codes** | **Short Description** |
| 92521 | Evaluation of Speech Fluency |
| 92522 | Evaluation of Speech Sound Production |
| 92523 | Evaluation of Speech Sound Production; with Evaluation of Language Comprehension and Expression |
| 92610 | Eval of Oral and Pharyngeal Swallowing Function |
| 92507 | Speech, Language, Voice, Communication Therapy, Individual |
| 92508 | Speech, Language, Voice, Communication Therapy, Group |
| 92507 | Speech/Hearing Therapy, Individual |
| 92508 | Speech/Hearing Therapy, Group |

Speech-language pathology CPT codes are primarily service-based rather than based on the amount of time spent. There are CPT codes that are reported by speech-language pathologists that are time-based such as:

* the first hour of a speech-generating device (SGD) evaluation;
* each additional 30 minutes of the SGD evaluation;
* aphasia evaluation, per hour;
* the first hour of an aural rehabilitation evaluation; and
* each additional 15 minutes of the aural rehabilitation evaluation.

All other codes are procedure-based. That is, the CPT code is reported as one unit of service regardless of the length of the appointment.

**GROUP SERVICES**

Certain allowable services, such as the service listed below, are group services. Group services must include at least two children and no more than five children in order to be billable to Medicaid. Group services are only reimbursable if delivered face-to-face. Telehealth is not an approved modality for group services. The table below displays the most common billing code for speech, language, and hearing group services for the SBS Program.

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| --- | --- |
| **Group Services** | |
| **CPT Codes** | **Short Description** |
| 92508 | Speech/Hearing Therapy, Group; Per session |

**DIAGNOSIS CODES**

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are identified in the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD-10-CM) code book that was developed to create international uniformity in diagnosing health conditions.*Note***:** ICD-10-CM codes must be included on the claim or the claim will be denied.

**MODIFERS**

Modifiers are codes added on a claim line with the procedure code to supply further information about a CPT or HCPCS code, such as who performs the service. Modifiers are always two characters and are added to the end of a HCPCS or CPT code with a hyphen. The table below displays a list of the modifiers pertaining to the speech, language, and hearing services for the SBS Program.

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| **Modifiers** | |
| **Modifier** | **Description** |
| GN | Speech-language pathology assistant or  Speech-language pathology aide |
| GT | Telehealth: Via interactive audio and video telecommunications systems. |

**RESOURCES**

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. The ASHA website is a great resource for speech, language, and hearing providers.

1. Link to ASHA’s homepage: <https://www.asha.org/>
2. ASHA’s 2023 ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes Related to Speech, Language, and Swallowing Disorders: <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/icd-10-codes-slp.pdf>
3. ASHA’s comprehensive list of speech, language, hearing related CPT codes and their descriptors: <https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/coding/slpcpt/>
4. ASHA’s Medicaid in Schools Toolkit: <https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicaid/medicaid-toolkit-schools/>
5. ASHA’s guidance on Medicaid Payment for School-Based Services: <https://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicaid/school-based_services/>

If you have additional questions regarding the SBS Program, please contact the Wyoming Department of Health via email at [wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov) or [justin.browning1@wyo.gov](mailto:justin.browning1@wyo.gov) or by phone at (307) 777-7491.

For more information on Wyoming’s SBS Program visit: <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/>