**Guidance for** **Physical Therapy 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 physical therapy services.

This document is a resource guide to support the physical therapy 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 physical therapy providers are highlighted below.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES**

Physical therapy services must be prescribed by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of their practice under State law. So long as the prescribing physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts is part of the IEP team and signs the IEP, the IEP can be considered the necessary authorization for all physical therapy services. Services are provided to improve, develop, or restore functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation. Physical therapy 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:

* Neuromotor assessment;
* Range or motion;
* Joint integrity and functional mobility;
* Flexibility assessment;
* Gait, balance and coordination assessment and training;
* Posture and body mechanics assessment and training;
* Soft tissue assessment;
* Pain assessment;
* Cranial nerve assessment;
* Nerve conduction;
* Therapeutic procedures;
* Manual manipulation;
* Muscle strengthening and therapy techniques;
* Gross motor development;
* Functional training;
* Sensory motor assessment and training;
* Activities of daily living assessment and training; and
* Therapeutic exercise.

**ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS FOR** **PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES**

For the SBS Program, physical therapy services may be provided by the following Medicaid providers:

* Physical Therapists: Must be licensed by the Wyoming Board of Physical Therapy and meet the requirements of the Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act located in [Wyoming Statute § 33- 25-101 through 33-25-116](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf).
* Physical Therapy Assistants: Must be licensed by the Wyoming Board of Physical Therapy and work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Supervision must be consistent with the Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act, [Wyoming Statute § 33-25-101 et seq](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf).
* Physical Therapy Aides: Must work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Supervision must be consistent with the Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act, [Wyoming Statute § 33-25-101 et seq](https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title33.pdf). Physical therapy aides may perform patient care activities as defined by the Board under the on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist or a certified physical therapist assistant.

To receive reimbursement for the SBS Program, services must be ordered, referred, or prescribed by a physician or other licensed Provider within the Provider’s scope of practice under state law. Wyoming Medicaid requires that ordering, referring, or prescribing (ORP) Providers be documented on claims. All ORP Providers and attending Providers must be enrolled with Wyoming Medicaid. This applies to all in-state and out-of-state Providers, even if they do not submit claims to Wyoming Medicaid. All Medicaid SBS Program claims resulting from an order, referral, or prescription must include the NPI of the ORP Provider.

Physical therapy assistants and physical therapy aides are not eligible to act as an ORP Provider. Table 1 below displays the allowable physical therapy provider types with associated taxonomy codes and ORP eligibility.

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| **Table 1. Provider Type, Taxonomy Code, and ORP Eligibility** |
| **Individual Provider**  | **Taxonomy**  | **Eligible ORP** |
| Physical Therapist | 225100000X | Yes |
| Physical Therapy Assistant | N/A | No |
| Physical Therapy Aide | N/A | No |

**COMMON CPT/HCPCS CODES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY 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. Physical therapy services include a mix of encounter-based and time-based CPT codes. Table 2 below displays common billing codes for physical therapy services for the SBS Program.

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| **Table 2. Physical Therapy Services** |
| **CPT Codes** | **Short Description** |
| 97161 | PT Eval, Low Complex, Per session (typically 20 min) |
| 97162 | PT Eval, Moderate Complex, Per session (typically 30 min) |
| 97163 | PT Eval, High Complex, Per session (typically 45 min) |
| 97164 | PT Re-Eval; Establish Care Plan |
| 97110 | Therapeutic Exercises; Per 15 min |
| 97150 | Group Therapeutic Exercises; Per 15 min |
| 92507 | Speech/Hearing Therapy, Individual |

**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. Table 3 below displays the most common billing code for physical therapy group services for the SBS Program.

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| **Table 3. Group Services** |
| **CPT Codes** | **Short Description** |
| 97150 | Group Therapeutic Exercises; Per 15 min |

**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 or how a service is delivered. Modifiers are always two characters and are added to the end of a HCPCS or CPT code with a hyphen. Table 4 below displays a modifier pertaining to the physical therapy services for the SBS Program. Providers must use the “CQ” modifier if the service was delivered via a licensed physical therapist assistant and “GT” if the service was delivered via telehealth.

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| **Table 4. Modifiers**  |
| **Modifier** | **Description**  |
| CQ | Licensed physical therapist assistant |
| GT | Telehealth: Via interactive audio and video telecommunications systems. |

**RESOURCES**

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is an individual membership professional organization representing 100,000 member physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy. The APTA website is a great resource for physical therapy providers.

1. APTA’s Homepage: <https://www.apta.org/>
2. APTA’s Coding and Billing Resource: <https://www.apta.org/your-practice/payment/coding-billing>
3. APTA’s School-Based Physical Therapy Resource: <https://www.apta.org/your-practice/practice-models-and-settings/school-based-physical-therapy>

If you have additional questions regarding the SBS Program, please contact the Wyoming Department of Health via email at wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov or 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/>