What services do speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists deliver via telepractice?

SLPs provide evaluation and treatment via telepractice for:
- Language and speech disorders
- Swallowing disorders
- Stuttering
- Voice disorders
- Accent modification

Audiology services include:
- Infant hearing screening
- Audiologic assessment
- Hearing aid fitting and monitoring
- Cochlear implant programming
- Follow up for children with cochlear implants

How are SLPs and audiologists reimbursed for telepractice?

Contracts with public and private schools; federal, state, or private grant funding; the Veterans Administration; some Medicaid and private insurance plans; self-pay

Does Medicaid reimburse SLPs and audiologists using telepractice?

Medicaid currently reimburses in nine states for speech-language pathology and audiology services delivered via telepractice either in the public schools or in health care settings.

California  Maine  New Mexico
Colorado  Minnesota  Ohio
Kentucky  Missouri  Virginia

Medicaid coverage varies by state. Providers should contact Medicaid directly to verify and receive information in writing regarding coverage—including how telepractice services should be reflected in the billing code and documentation.

What states have laws, regulations, or policy statements about telepractice provided by SLPs and audiologists?

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming have laws, regulations, definitions, or policies regarding the use of telepractice by audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

Telepractice is also provided in states that do not yet have laws, regulations, definitions, or policies.

How does the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) promote telepractice by SLPs and audiologists?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)—the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 182,000 members and affiliates—supports telepractice by:
- advocating to include SLPs and audiologists as eligible providers under Medicare and insurance plans of other payers
- tracking state licensure laws and Medicaid and other reimbursement sources
- creating a Special Interest Group for telepractice that publishes twice annually and maintains an online forum for information sharing
- providing professional development and web-based information about telepractice

ASHA uses the term “telepractice” rather than “telemedicine,” “telehealth” or “telerehabilitation” because SLPs and audiologists practice in education as well as health care settings.

For more information

www.asha.org (search “telepractice”) or contact:
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