

Speech Therapy Stakeholder Engagement

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Purpose

- To inform providers of changes to the speech therapy benefit, per the 2023 Long Bill
- Review modifier enforcement for speech therapy and review how this will impact future billing

Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- Mission, Roles, & Commitments
- Policy Changes
- Benefit Plans
- What's Next
- Resources

Meeting Logistics

- Participation
- IT support
- Meeting recording & materials



Our Mission:

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.

Department's Role

- Keep the meeting on track with time and scope
- Provide policy and program information related to the process
- Answer questions

We Commit to Stakeholders

The Department will:

- Thoroughly and thoughtfully evaluate all questions and feedback.
- Identify what feedback can be incorporated now or potentially in the future.
- Transparently communicate the outcomes of feedback and questions.
- Refer individuals to appropriate Department resources for out-of-scope topics.

Current Policy & Long Bill Changes

Current Policy

- Current Speech Therapy policy is to PAR at zero, with the following 7 of the 29 CPT codes for ST services requiring a PAR:
 - *92507, 92508, 92526, 92609, 97129, 97130, 97755*
- All 29 codes should have a modifier associated to differentiate between rehabilitative, habilitative, and Early Intervention

Unit Usage

- We are currently seeing trends in the data of unused units across all age groups
- We are digging deeper into the data
- We'll share the data publicly once available

Long Bill 2023

- Added as a footnote in the Long Bill:

Speech therapy – An increase of \$669,529 total funds, including \$328,070 General Fund, to allow 12 sessions of speech therapy before requiring prior authorization review.

Expected Implementation Date

- System changes will be implemented in December 2023
- System complexity necessitates a longer implementation timeline



Questions?



Benefit Plans

Alternative Benefit Plan

- Upcoming PAR limits will be different depending on if the member is eligible for the Alternative Benefit Plan or TXIX
- 12 sessions for rehabilitative and habilitative services separately every 12 months rolling for ABP eligible members.
- 12 sessions combined for TXIX members every 12 months rolling.

Habilitative vs Rehabilitative

Rehabilitative Speech Therapy

In accordance with 10 CCR 2505-10 8.200.3.D.2.d.i, Rehabilitative speech therapy is a covered benefit under the following conditions. "Rehabilitative" means therapy that treats acute injuries and illnesses which are non-chronic conditions. Rehabilitative is therefore short-term in nature.

Habilitative Speech Therapy

In accordance with 10 CCR 2505-10 8.017.B, Habilitative speech therapy is a covered benefit under the following conditions. The Colorado Division of Insurance has defined "Habilitative" services to be:

Services that help a person retain, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living that are offered in parity with, and in addition to, any rehabilitative services offered in Colorado's Essential Health Benefits benchmark plan. Parity in this context means of like type and substantially equivalent in scope, amount, and duration.

- Habilitative and rehabilitative services have different rules for coverage eligibility
- See the [Speech Therapy Billing Manual](#) for more details

Modifiers for Speech Therapy

- Modifiers that differentiate rehabilitative, habilitative, and Early Intervention speech therapy services have been required and that is not changing
- The MMIS claims system will begin enforcing modifier use within the next 9 months, a provider bulletin and emails will go out beforehand

Outpatient Therapy Type	Modifier 1	Modifier 2
Rehabilitative Speech Therapy	GN	97
Habilitative Speech Therapy	GN	96
Early Intervention Speech Therapy	GN	TL

What Will I Need to Do?

- Check member eligibility via the provider portal
- Submit a PAR if the number of sessions may go over 12 sessions in 12 months or the member has been seen for ST in the past 12 months
- Review Provider Bulletins over the next several months for more specific updates



Questions?



Next Steps

- Thoroughly and thoughtfully evaluate feedback
- Publish a Q&A document with the Department's responses if there are any outstanding questions or comments
- Provide updates in Provider Bulletins

Resources

- Questions regarding Prior Authorization Requests (PAR) or the PAR process:
 - Utilization Management team at hcpf_um@state.co.us
- All claims and portal questions:
 - Gainwell at 1-844-235-2387
- Speech Therapy policy questions:
 - Devinne Parsons at devinne.parsons@state.co.us

Contact Information

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Acentra PAR Questions

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Thank you!