




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth



MassHealth
Transmittal Letter SHC-19
September 2021

TO: Speech and Hearing Center Providers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 
RE: *Speech and Hearing Center Manual* (Service Codes and Descriptions Updates)

This letter transmits revisions to the list of service codes in the *Speech and Hearing Center Manual*. Unless otherwise stated, for dates of service on or after August 15, 2021, you must use the new codes, modifiers, and corresponding submodifiers in order to obtain reimbursement.

This transmittal letter expands select sections of Subchapter 6 that are updated with new codes and modifier combinations created to replace service codes that have been retired by CMS. This transmittal letter also codifies agency telehealth policy by adding new modifier combinations to reflect services performed through interactive audio and video telecommunication systems. Providers may bill with the service codes and service code/modifier combinations listed in this transmittal letter for any date of service within the billing timeframes described in 130 CMR 450.309 through 130 CMR 450.314. The revised Subchapter 6 service codes and descriptions are effective for the dates of service noted below.

If you wish to obtain a fee schedule, you may download the Executive Office of Health and Human Services regulations at no cost at www.mass.gov/service-details/eohhs-regulations. The program regulation for Speech and Hearing Center Services is 130 CMR 413.000 and the fee schedule regulations are 101 CMR 339.00: *Restorative Services* and 101 CMR 323.00: *Hearing Services*.

Newly Added Service Codes, Modifiers, and Submodifiers

The following service codes are newly added for Subchapter 6 Speech and Language Services, **effective for dates of service on or after August 15, 2021.**

92605
92607
92608
92609
92526
92610

Subchapter 6 is also being updated to incorporate the following informational modifier and corresponding modifiers, consistent with agency policy. These are **effective for dates of service on or after August 15, 2021**. The modifiers have been added to provide greater reporting specificity in situations previously coded using only modifier 59.

<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Description</u>
59	Distinct procedural service. (Informational)
XE	Separate encounter, a service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter. (Informational)
XS	Separate structure, a service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure. (Informational)
XP	Separate practitioner. A service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner. (Informational)
XU	Unusual non-overlapping service, the use of a service that is distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service. (Informational)

Subchapter 6 is being further updated to incorporate the following informational modifier, consistent with agency policy. This modifier is **effective for dates of service on or after January 21, 2021**.

<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Description</u>
GT	Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems

Subchapter 6 is being updated to incorporate the following informational modifier, consistent with agency policy. This modifier has been **in effect for dates of service on or after March 1, 2017**.

<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Description</u>
TW	AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories

Service Codes Retired by CMS and Replaced by Service Code / Modifier Combinations

Service codes have been retired by CMS and replaced by other service codes and modifiers, but not formally listed in Subchapter 6. Updating Subchapter 6 by listing the respective codes, modifiers, and combinations codifies the covered codes and aligns with agency policy in effect for dates of service as noted below.

Section 601, Speech and Language Services is updated to codify existing codes and align with agency policy **in effect for dates of service on or after January 1, 2014**. The following codes and modifier combinations replace Service Code 92506, which was retired by CMS.

<u>Retired Code</u>	<u>Replacement Code</u>	<u>Modifier</u>
92506	92521	--
92506	92522	--
92506	92522	HA
92506	92522	TF
92506	92523	--
92506	92523	HA
92506	92523	TF
92506	92524	--
92506	92524	HA
92506	92524	TF

Providers may consult the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website at www.cms.gov for a full description for the service codes.

MassHealth Website

This transmittal letter and attached pages are available on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/masshealth-transmittal-letters.

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Questions

The MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center is open, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. LTSS Providers should direct their questions about this letter or other MassHealth LTSS Provider questions to the LTSS Third Party Administrator (TPA) as follows:

Method	Contact Information for MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center
Phone	Toll-free 1-844-368-5184
Email	support@masshealthltss.com
Portal	MassHealthLTSS.com
Mail	MassHealth LTSS PO Box 159108 Boston, MA 02215
Fax	1-888-832-3006
LTSS Provider Portal	Trainings, general Information, and future enhancements will be available at www.MassHealthLTSS.com .

NEW MATERIAL

(The pages listed here contain new or revised language.)

Speech Hearing Center Manual

Pages 6-1 through 6-6

OBSOLETE MATERIAL

(The pages listed here are no longer in effect.)

Speech Hearing Center Manual

Pages 6-1 and 6-2 — transmitted by Transmittal Letter SHC-18

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions

Note:

- (A) I.C. indicates that the claim will receive individual consideration to determine payment. See 130 CMR 413.407 for I.C. requirements.
- (B) Some service codes require prior authorization (P.A.). See 130 CMR 413.408 for prior authorization requirements.

Service

Code Modifier Service Description

Audiological Services

92552		Pure tone audiometry (threshold); air only
92553		air and bone (S.P. to 92552)
92555		Speech audiometry threshold
92556		with speech recognition
92557		Comprehensive audiometry threshold evaluation and speech recognition (92553 and 92556 combined)
92562		Loudness balance test, alternate binaural or monaural (S.P. to 92563 through 92565)
92563		Tone decay test (S.P. to 92562, 92564, and 92565)
92564		Short increment sensitivity index (SISI) (S.P. to 92562, 92563, and 92565)
92565		Stenger test, pure tone (S.P. to 92562 through 92564)
92567		Tympanometry (impedance testing)
92568		Acoustic reflex testing (S.P. to 92569)
92569		Acoustic reflex decay test (S.P. to 92568)
92572		Staggered spondaic word test (S.P. to 92576 and 92577)
92576		Synthetic sentence identification test (S.P. to 92571 and 92577)
92577		Stenger test, speech (S.P. to 92571 and 92576)
92582		Conditioning play audiometry
92583		Select picture audiometry (I.C.)
92584		Electrocochleography (I.C.)
92585		Auditory evoked potentials for evoked response audiometry and/or testing of the central nervous system; comprehensive
92586		limited
92587		Evoked otoacoustic emissions; limited (single stimulus level, either transient or distortion products)
92588		Comprehensive or diagnostic evaluation (comparison of transient and/or distortion product otoacoustic emissions at multiple levels and frequencies)
92590		Hearing aid examination and selection; monaural
92591		binaural
92592		Hearing aid check, monaural (Listening check of the instrument plus sound field testing of the instrument on the patient. May or may not be performed together with a diagnostic evaluation.)
92593		binaural
92594	--	Electroacoustical evaluation for hearing aid; monaural (real ear measurement (REM) objective test of hearing instrument performance in the patient's ear as compared to a target response and electroacoustical assessment of the performance evaluation of the hearing instrument as compared to its original factory specifications)

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

Service

Code Modifier Service Description

92595	--	binaural
92596	--	Ear protector attenuation measurements
92620	--	Evaluation of central auditory function, with report; initial 60 minutes
92621	--	Evaluation of central auditory function, with report, each additional 15 minutes (up to the maximum of eight units billed)

Other Procedures

92700	--	Unlisted otorhinolaryngological service or procedure (I.C.)
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Speech and Language Services

When providing therapy services in an out-of-office location, use the appropriate place of service when billing for speech therapy services. Note: Procedure-to-procedure edits will be applied to certain combinations of codes in accordance with the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) as implemented by MassHealth.

Modifier GN, an informational modifier indicating the services are delivered under an Outpatient Speech/Language Pathology Plan of Care, may be applied to any of the below procedure codes for further specificity.

Modifier 59, or modifiers XE, XS, XP, and XU should be applied to the below procedure codes when needed to indicate greater reporting specificity

59	Distinct procedural service. (Informational)
XE	Separate encounter, a service that is distinct because it occurred during a separate encounter. (Informational)
XS	Separate structure, a service that is distinct because it was performed on a separate organ/structure. (Informational)
XP	Separate practitioner. A service that is distinct because it was performed by a different practitioner. (Informational)
XU	Unusual non-overlapping service, the use of a service that is distinct because it does not overlap usual components of the main service, (Informational)

- 1) Modifier GT, an informational modifier (indicating the services are conducted via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems). Telehealth codes may only be used when clinically appropriate.
- 2) Modifier TW is an informational modifier indicating Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) non-dedicated speech device and accessories. This modifier may be applied to the identified procedure codes.

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

Service

Code Modifier Service Description

(A) Speech/Language Therapy Evaluations:

92521	- -	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering)
92521	GT	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92521	HA	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering) (for patients aged 21 or younger)
92521	HA, GT	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering) (for patients aged 21 or younger) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92521	TF	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older)
92521	TF, GT	Evaluation of speech fluency (<i>e.g.</i> , stuttering, cluttering) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92522	- -	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria)
92522	GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92522	HA	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) (for patients aged 21 or younger)
92522	HA, GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) (for patients aged 21 or younger) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92522	TF	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older)
92522	TF, GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92523	- -	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (<i>e.g.</i> , receptive and expressive language)
92523	GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (<i>e.g.</i> , receptive and expressive language) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92523	HA	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (<i>e.g.</i> , receptive and expressive language) (for patients aged 21 or younger)
92523	HA, GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (<i>e.g.</i> , articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (<i>e.g.</i> , receptive and expressive language) (for patients aged 21 or younger) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

<u>Service Code</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Service Description</u>
92523	TF	Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older)
92523	TF, GT	Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language) (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92524	--	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance
92524	GT	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92524	HA	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance (for patients aged 21 or younger)
92524	HA, GT	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance (for patients aged 21 or younger) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92524	TF	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older)
92524	TF, GT	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance (for developmentally disabled adults aged 22 or older) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92605	--	Evaluation for prescription for non-speech generating AAC device, face-to-face with the patient; first hour
92605	GT	Evaluation for prescription for non-speech generating AAC device, face-to-face with the patient (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems); first hour
92607	--	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; first hour (maximum one unit per evaluation)
92607	GT	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; first hour (maximum one unit per evaluation) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92607	TW	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; first hour (maximum one unit per evaluation) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories)
92607	TW, GT	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; first hour (maximum one unit per evaluation) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92608	--	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (maximum two unit per evaluation)(service code may only be billed after 92607)

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

<u>Service Code</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Service Description</u>
92608	GT	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (maximum two unit per evaluation)(service code may only be billed after 92607) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92608	TW	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (maximum two unit per evaluation)(service code may only be billed after 92607) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories)
92608	TW, GT	Evaluation for prescription for speech-generating augmentative and alternative communication device, face-to-face with the patient; each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure) (maximum two unit per evaluation)(service code may only be billed after 92607) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)

(B) Speech/Language Services:

92609	- -	Therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification (maximum one unit per visit)
92609	GT	Therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification (maximum one unit per visit) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92609	TW	Therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification (maximum one unit per visit) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories)
92609	TW, GT	Therapeutic services for the use of speech-generating device, including programming and modification (maximum one unit per visit) (AAC non-dedicated speech device and accessories) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92507	- -	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); individual (maximum one unit per visit) (use to bill for treatment provided by a speech therapist)
92507	GT	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); individual (maximum one unit per visit) (use to bill for treatment provided by a speech therapist) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

<u>Service Code</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>Service Description</u>
92508	--	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); group, two or more individuals (maximum one unit per visit (use to bill for group speech therapy session)
92508	GT	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); group, two or more individuals (maximum one unit per visit (use to bill for group speech therapy session)(via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92526	--	Treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding (maximum one unit per visit)
92526	GT	Treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding (maximum one unit per visit) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)
92610	--	Evaluation of oral and pharyngeal swallowing function (per hour, maximum of one hour)
92610	GT	Evaluation of oral and pharyngeal swallowing function (per hour, maximum of one hour) (via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems)

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