




MassHealth
Speech and Hearing Center Bulletin 15
November 2021

TO: Therapy Providers at Speech and Hearing Centers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

RE: **Payment for Services Provided by a Licensed Therapy Assistant Supervised by a Licensed Therapist**

Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to update speech and hearing center program rules consistent with other long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs to allow payment by the MassHealth agency for therapy services provided by licensed therapy assistants while under the supervision of a licensed therapist working in speech and hearing centers.

Therapists and any therapy assistants they supervise providing services within speech and hearing centers are subject to all other regulations established in 130 CMR 413.000: *Speech and Hearing Center Services* and in 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

Payable Services Provided by Therapy Assistants

The regulation at 130 CMR 413.417(A) provides that speech and language therapy services rendered by any person under the supervision of a speech therapist or audiologist are nonpayable. In addition, 130 CMR 413.404(A)(4): *Provider Eligibility* requires that speech, hearing, or language services be provided by a licensed, certified audiologist or a licensed, certified speech therapist who does not bill separately from the Speech and Hearing Center facility for professional services.

Effective for dates of service on or after November 26, 2021, and notwithstanding 130 CMR 413.404(A)(4) and 413.417(A), speech and language therapy services rendered by a speech/language therapist assistant (speech/language pathologist assistant—SPLA) under the supervision of a speech therapist or audiologist are payable MassHealth services, subject to the supervision requirements described in this bulletin.

MassHealth will not separately enroll licensed therapy assistants. Claims for services rendered by supervised assistants must be billed under the speech and hearing center provider's MassHealth Identification Service Location Number. Licensed therapy assistants must complete visit note documentation, which must be signed by the therapy assistant and co-signed by the supervising therapist. Such notes must be maintained in the member's record. See 130 CMR 450.205: *Recordkeeping and Disclosure*.

Provider Eligibility and Supervision Requirements

Payment for speech and hearing center services described in 130 CMR 413.000 will be made only to the speech and hearing centers that are participating in MassHealth on the date of the service, for services personally rendered by therapists, or for services rendered by supervised licensed therapy assistants.

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In addition to the other requirements established in 130 CMR 413.000, below are the provider definitions and supervision requirements for licensed therapy assistants:

(1) Speech/Language Therapist (Speech/Language Pathologist). A speech/language pathologist must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as a speech/language therapist or speech/language pathologist.

(2) Speech/Language Therapist Assistant (Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant) (SLPA). An SLPA must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as an SLPA. An SLPA must work under the supervision of a licensed Speech/Language pathologist. Supervision of SLPAs must be performed following state regulatory guidance. For speech/language pathologist, see 260 CMR 10.00: *Use and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Assistant*.

These definitions and requirements apply to both in-state and out-of-state providers. In-state and out-of-state speech and hearing center providers are also subject to all other regulations established in 130 CMR 413.000: *Speech and Hearing Center Services* and in 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

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Questions

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provider Service Center.

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