



# Billing for Audiology Services

School-Based Health Care Services  
August 2020

**Note:** This training is intended for audiologists who participate in the School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) program. The SBHS program provides reimbursement to contracted school districts for providing health related services that are included in a Medicaid eligible student's individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP). Information provided in this training does not supersede instructions and policy found in the SBHS Billing Guide, SBHS WAC or the SBHS contract.

# Resources for Audiologists

[www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs](http://www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs)

- SBHS Billing Guide
- FAQs
- PDF of this training
- NCCI training
- Links to DOH and NPI registry

Resources

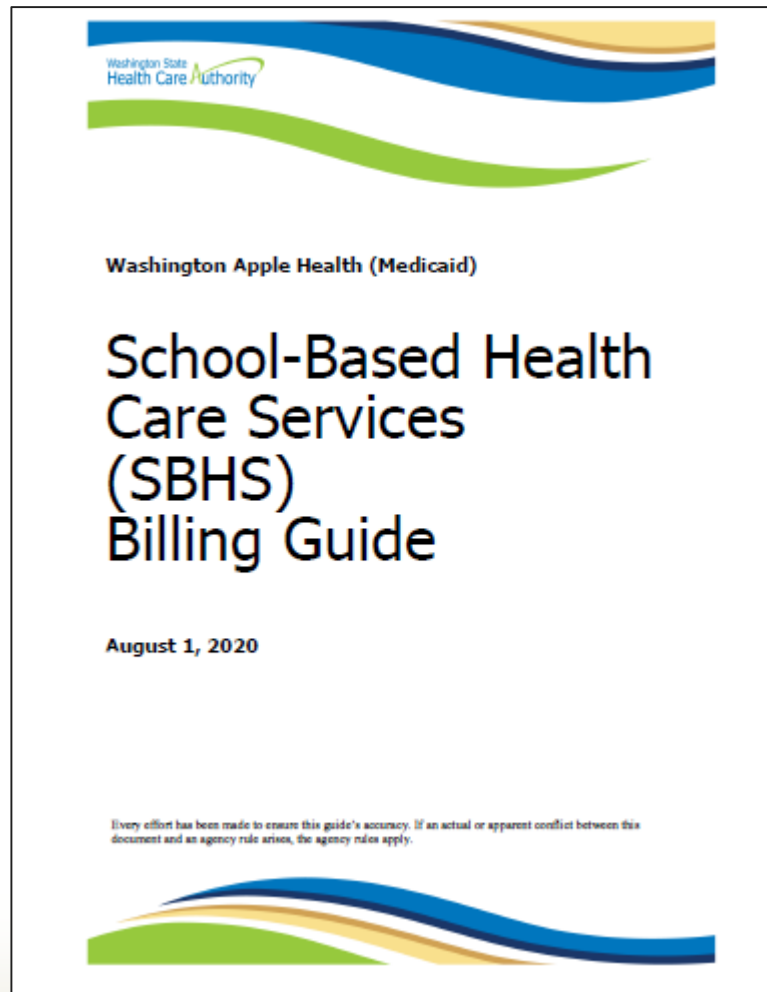
SBHS coordinators >

Service providers v

SBHS billing information and fee schedule	Trainings and webinars	Additional resources
<a href="#">SBHS billing guide</a>	SBHS 101 training - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	<a href="#">Apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI)</a>
<a href="#">SBHS fee schedule</a>	Billing for audiology services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	<a href="#">NPI registry</a>
<a href="#">SBHS COVID-19 FAQ</a>	Billing for counseling services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	
<a href="#">SBHS program expansion FAQ</a>	Billing for nursing services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	
	Billing for occupational therapy services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	
	Billing for physical therapy services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	
	Billing for speech-language therapy services - <a href="#">video</a> / <a href="#">pdf</a>	
	NCCI edits training tool - <a href="#">pdf</a>	

Nonparticipating school districts >

# SBHS Billing Guide



The [SBHS Billing Guide](#) is the program manual for SBHS. It contains:

- Program requirements
- Provider qualifications
- Billing requirements
- Billable codes
- Documentation requirements
- ...and more!

# SBHS Billing Guide

## Table of Contents

About this guide.....	2
What has changed?.....	2
How can I get agency provider documents?.....	3
Where can I download agency forms?.....	4
<b>Resources Available.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Definitions.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Program Overview.....</b>	<b>13</b>
What is the purpose of this billing guide?.....	13
What is the SBHS program?.....	13
Who can participate in the SBHS program?.....	14
What are the participation requirements of the SBHS program?.....	14
What is the provider revalidation process?.....	15
What is the role of the SBHS coordinator?.....	16
I am a new SBHS coordinator, how do I gain access to ProviderOne?.....	16
What is the Provider and Contact Update Form?.....	17
Will receiving SBHS affect a child's Medicaid or other benefits?.....	18
<b>Student Eligibility.....</b>	<b>19</b>
How can I verify a student's Medicaid eligibility?.....	19
Are students enrolled in a Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) managed care organization eligible for SBHS?.....	20
Are students who are covered by private insurance eligible for SBHS?.....	20
Which students are not eligible for reimbursement?.....	21
<b>Provider Qualifications.....</b>	<b>22</b>
Who may provide school-based health care services (SBHS)?.....	22
How can I tell if a provider is eligible to participate in SBHS?.....	22
Eligible SBHS Provider Table.....	23
Which provider taxonomy codes are used for the SBHS program?.....	25
What are the provider supervision requirements?.....	25
How do I enroll providers in ProviderOne?.....	26
What do I do when a servicing provider no longer participates in SBHS?.....	26
Which providers cannot participate in the SBHS program?.....	27
Interim permit holders.....	27
Nonlicensed people.....	27
Licensing exemptions.....	27
<b>Covered Services.....</b>	<b>28</b>
What is covered?.....	28

Use CTRL +  
F to search  
for topics!

Referrals and prescriptions.....	28
Procedure codes.....	29
Using untimed and timed procedure codes.....	29
Untimed procedure codes.....	29
Timed procedure codes.....	29
What is the National Correct Coding Initiative?.....	30
NCCI Resources.....	31
Telemedicine.....	31
What is telemedicine?.....	31
When does the agency cover telemedicine?.....	32
What are the documentation requirements?.....	32
Originating site (location of student).....	32
Is the originating site paid for telemedicine?.....	32
Distant site (location of provider).....	32
Billing for services provided via telemedicine.....	33
What is not covered?.....	34
<b>Coverage Tables.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Audiology services.....	35
Counseling services.....	37
Nursing/health services.....	37
Psychological assessments and services.....	39
Occupational therapy services.....	39
Physical therapy services.....	41
Speech-language therapy services.....	42
<b>Documentation.....</b>	<b>44</b>
What documentation requirements are there for school districts?.....	44
Treatment notes.....	45
Signature requirements.....	46
Signature log.....	46
Electronic Signatures.....	47
<b>Billing and Payment.....</b>	<b>48</b>
What are the requirements for payment?.....	48
What is the intergovernmental transfer (IGT) process?.....	49
How do I submit local match to the agency?.....	49
How are school districts paid?.....	50
Time limits for billing the agency.....	50
How do I submit claims for a student who has private insurance?.....	50
I am a self-billing school district. How do I submit claims in ProviderOne?.....	51
Fee Schedule.....	51
Do I need to report SBHS payments on the SEFA?.....	52
Remittance advice.....	52

# SBHS Program Notifications

[www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs](http://www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs)

- Providers may sign up to receive SBHS notifications.
- Past SBHS newsletters and program notifications can be found on the SBHS webpage.
- Download RSS feed extension for Chrome if you can't view notifications.

## Resources

[SBHS coordinators](#) >

[Service providers](#) >

[Nonparticipating school districts](#) >

## SBHS quarterly newsletters and program notifications

SBHS sends updates via our email communications tool, GovDelivery.

- [Sign up for email notifications](#) <sup>12</sup>

Past notifications are available to view through our RSS feed.

- [View past program notifications](#) <sup>12</sup>

Please note: If you subscribe to our RSS feed and use the Chrome browser, you will need to [install the RSS feed extension for Chrome](#) <sup>12</sup>.

# What is the SBHS Program?

[WAC 182-537-0100](#)

The School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) program is an optional Medicaid program which provides reimbursement to contracted school districts, educational service districts, and charter and tribal schools for providing health-related services to students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or individualized family service plans (IFSPs).

## SBHS Overview

- The SBHS program is administered by the Health Care Authority (HCA).
- HCA is the single state agency responsible for administering the state's Medicaid (Apple Health) program as well as the public employee/school employee health benefits programs.
- HCA's SBHS program manager, Shanna Muirhead, is the main contact for the SBHS program.
- Receiving services through SBHS does not affect services a child receives outside of school.



# History of Medicaid & IDEA

1965. Title XIX of Social Security Act (the Act) establishes a Federal–state matching entitlement program known as Medicaid.



1975. Congress passes Education for All Handicapped Children Act. Renamed Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990.



1988. Section 411(k)(13) of Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act amended section 1903(c) of the Act which allows schools to receive Medicaid reimbursement for Medicaid covered services in an IEP or IFSP.

## Who Can Participate in SBHS?

The following entities can enter into a SBHS contract with HCA and participate in the SBHS program:

- Public school districts
- Educational service districts
- Charter schools
- Tribal schools

A list of SBHS contracted districts is available on the [SBHS webpage](#).

## SBHS Eligible Audiology Providers

- **Department of Health (DOH) licensed audiologist**
- **The following individuals may also provide services under the supervision of a licensed audiologist:**
  - Audiology interim permit holder
  - Nonlicensed school staff (e.g. nonlicensed audiologists, paraeducator, aide, intern, etc.)

# Requirements for Licensed Audiologists

## **The following applies to licensed audiologists and interim permit holders:**

- Must hold current and unrestricted licensure as an audiologist or interim permit holder with the WA State Department of Health (DOH).
- Must obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) through the Federal government at the [NPPES website](#).
- Interim permit holders must practice under the supervision of a licensed audiologist.

# Requirements for Nonlicensed Individuals

**The following applies to nonlicensed individuals providing services under the direction of a licensed audiologist:**

- DOH license not required
- NPI not required
- Must practice under supervision of a licensed audiologist per professional scope-of-practice standards

# License and Supervisory Requirements

License requirements and supervisory requirements for hearing and speech providers can be found on the Department of Health (DOH) [webpage](#) and in [Chapter 18.35 RCW](#) and [Chapter 246-828 WAC](#).

# Confirming Licensure and NPI

- Providers may confirm their DOH license information on DOH's Provider Credential webpage:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/>

- Providers may apply for an NPI and/or confirm and update their NPI information on CMS's NPPES webpage:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/#/>

# Student Eligibility

**In order for the school district to receive reimbursement through the SBHS program, students must:**

- Be ages birth through age 2 (Part C) with an active IFSP
- Be ages 3 through age 20 (Part B) with an active IEP
- Have active Title XIX Medicaid at the time of service delivery
- Have a parent or guardian give consent to bill to the school district (per IDEA)

Providers should work with the school district's SBHS coordinator to obtain a list of eligible students.



# Covered Services

- Evaluations and reevaluations to determine if a student requires health related services per an IEP or IFSP
- Health-care related services included in the student's IEP or IFSP limited to:
  - **Audiology services**
  - Mental health services
  - Nursing services
  - Occupational therapy services
  - Physical therapy services
  - Speech-language therapy services

## Referral for Services

- Audiology services must be ordered by a licensed physician or *other licensed health care provider* within their scope of practice.
- For SBHS, licensed audiologists can evaluate, diagnose, and provide services per an IEP or IFSP without a script from a physician within their scope of practice per:
  - Department of Health (DOH) regulations ([Chapter 246-828 WAC](#))
  - Audiologists should review DOH regulations to ensure they refer and provide services per their scope of practice.

## SBHS Billable Audiology Codes

- The SBHS program utilizes approximately 20 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) audiology codes.
- A list of all billable speech-therapy codes can be found in the [SBHS Billing Guide](#) under the *Coverage Table: Audiology Services* Section.
- Codes are developed and owned by the American Medical Association (AMA).

Current rates associated with each code are located in the [SBHS Fee Schedule](#).

## SBHS Billable Audiology Codes, cont.

- Providers must use their professional judgement when determining the most appropriate code to use for the service(s) provided.
- The SBHS program manager can provide guidance on SBHS policies and procedures but cannot inform providers which code(s) to use.
- Providers may seek guidance from the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#) (ASHA) or a [Current Procedural Terminology \(CPT\) manual](#) for appropriate use of audiology codes.

# Billing for Evaluations and Reevaluations

- Licensed audiologists can bill for annual evaluations/reevaluations when they result in an IEP or IFSP containing speech or hearing services.
- Audiologists must complete an assessment/evaluation report and complete treatment notes to validate claims.
- Separate tests/services performed as part of the evaluation may also be submitted for reimbursement.
- Audiologists must complete treatment notes for all separate tests/services performed to validate claims.

## SBHS Covered Audiology Services

- Audiology services must be included in the IEP/IFSP as a special education service, a related service, or a consultation service.
  - Consult services are only reimbursable if direct services are provided to the student. Consult services provided to a special education teacher or another staff member are not reimbursable.
- The SBHS program will not reimburse for services provided in excess of what is authorized in the IEP/IFSP.

## SBHS Covered Audiology Services, cont.

Make-up sessions may be reimbursable when the provider clearly documents in the treatment notes that the session is a make-up.

- For example: A student's IEP states she requires audiology services 30 minutes/3 x week. The student receives services on Monday and Wednesday but is out sick on Friday and misses her session. The audiologist can bill for 4 sessions the following week but must document in the treatment notes the reason for the extra session.

## SBHS Audiology Codes: Timed vs. Untimed

- **Timed codes:** Each measure of time as defined by the code description equals one unit.
  - **Example: 92620 is timed per 60 minutes (1 unit=60 min)**
  - If it takes less than 60 minutes to provide the service, the provider may still bill for one unit of 92620 as long as treatment notes can justify the time spent performing the service
  - If it takes multiple days to provide this service--for example 3 days, 20 min/each session-- the provider should bill one unit of 92620
- **Untimed codes:** Can only be billed as one unit regardless of how long the procedure takes.
  - Most audiology codes are “untimed”



# Timed vs. Untimed Codes

- The comments column in the [SBHS Billing Guide](#) will indicate if a code is timed or untimed.
- If the comments column is blank, the code is untimed.

Procedure Code	Short Description	Comments
92587	Evoked auditory test limited	
92588	Evoked auditory tst complete	
92620	Auditory function 60 min	Timed 60 minutes
92621	Auditory function + 15 min	Each additional 15 minutes
92521	Evaluation of speech fluency	
92522	Evaluate speech production	
92523	Speech sound lang comprehen	
92524	Behavral qualit analys voice	
92507	Speech/hearing therapy	

Timed codes

Untimed codes

# Billing for Untimed Audiology Codes

- Untimed codes are not reimbursed based on time spent performing a procedure.
- Most untimed codes can only be billed as 1 unit per day, per client, per provider.
- Time-in and time-out must be recorded on treatment notes for all codes, even untimed codes.
- HCA will deny claims submitted with more than the maximum allowable units per day.

# National Correct Coding Initiative

- The SBHS program follows the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) policy.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created this policy to promote national correct coding methods.
- NCCI assists the HCA to control improper coding that may lead to inappropriate payment.

## National Correct Coding Initiative, cont.

- **Procedure-to-procedure (PTP) edits** - PTP edits prevent improper payments when incorrect code combinations are billed for the same client, on the same day, by the same provider.
  - Example: Code 92507 and 92508 cannot be billed together on the same day.
- **Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)** – MUEs are the maximum unit of service a code can be billed for the same client, on the same day, by the same provider.
  - Example: Providers can only bill one (1) unit of code 92508 per day, per student, per provider.

## NCCI Additional Information

- PTP and MUE edits can be viewed on the CMS NCCI webpage:  
<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/ncci/edit-files/index.html>
- The [NCCI Edits Training Tool](#) on the SBHS webpage assists providers with navigating the CMS NCCI webpage.

# Time Limits for SBHS Providers to Submit Claims

- Providers must submit the initial claim to the HCA within **three hundred sixty-five calendar days** from the date the provider furnishes the service to the eligible student.
- **Within twenty-four months** of the date the service, a provider may resubmit, modify, or adjust an initial claim that was assigned a transaction control number (TCN).
- After twenty-four months from the date the service was provided to the student, HCA does not accept any claim for resubmission, modification, or adjustment.

# Diagnosis Codes

- The SBHS program utilizes one diagnosis code:
  - R69 (illness, unspecified)
- The diagnosis code must be entered on each claim in ProviderOne but does not need to be included on treatment notes.

## Place of Service

**In addition to the school setting, the SBHS program pays for services that are provided in the following settings:**

- Natural setting (e.g. home, daycare, childcare setting)
- Alternate setting in accordance with IDEA (e.g. school bus, field trip, hospital)
- Includes in-person services and services provided via telemedicine

**Note:** When providing services in a setting other than the school, providers should document the place of service in their treatment notes.



# Telemedicine

## **Services provided via telemedicine are reimbursable through the SBHS program.**

- Providers must document when services are provided via telemedicine and document the location of the student and the location of the provider.
- Services provided by interim permit holders and nonlicensed staff are reimbursable when provided under the supervision of a licensed audiologist.
- More information about how to bill for services provided via telemedicine can be found in the current version of the [SBHS Billing Guide](#).

## SBHS Noncovered Services

- Annual hearing tests that don't result in an IEP/IFSP
- Applied behavioral analysis (ABA) therapy
- Attending meetings
- Charting
- Equipment preparation when student is not present
- Evaluations that do not result in an IEP or IFSP
- Instructional assistant contact
- Observation
- Parent consultation
- Parent contact
- Planning
- Preparing and sending correspondence
- Professional consultation
- Report writing
- Review of records
- School district staff accompanying a child to and from the school bus when services aren't provided
- Teacher contact
- Test interpretation
- Travel and transportation when services are not provided

# ProviderOne

- All licensed audiologists and interim permit holders participating in SBHS must be enrolled as a servicing provider under the school district's ProviderOne account.
- Nonlicensed individuals practicing under the supervision of a licensed provider do not need to be enrolled in ProviderOne.
- All services provided by nonlicensed individuals are billed under the licensed provider's NPI in ProviderOne.
- Providers do not need log-in access to ProviderOne.

ProviderOne is WA State's electronic Medicaid billing system.

## ProviderOne, cont.

The school district's SBHS coordinator enrolls licensed providers in ProviderOne and will need to collect the following information from each provider prior to enrolling in ProviderOne:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Social Security #
- Copy of DOH license
- NPI

Contact your district's SBHS coordinator for more information on ProviderOne enrollment.

# Documentation

- Medicaid requires providers to keep treatment notes/service logs that justify billed claims.
- Providers must document all services as specified in the SBHS billing guide.
- Treatment notes must be maintained for six (6) years from the date of service.
- Maintaining records in an electronic format is acceptable.

# Documentation

- **If your district contracts with a billing agent, licensed providers and nonlicensed staff must be enrolled in the billing agent's document software (WAMR, EasyTrac, Embrace)**
  - Providers and nonlicensed staff log-in to document all services electronically
  - Audiologists must review and co-sign treatment notes kept by interim permit holders and nonlicensed staff
- **If your district self-bills, providers may keep handwritten notes or electronic treatment notes**
  - Providers submit notes to district's SBHS coordinator
  - Audiologists must review and co-sign treatment notes kept by interim permit holders and nonlicensed staff
  - SBHS coordinator enters information from notes as claims into ProviderOne

# Documentation

## Treatment notes must contain the following information:

- Student's name
- Student's date of birth
- Students Medicaid (ProviderOne) ID
- Date of service and for each date of service:
  - Time-in/Time-out
  - Procedure code
  - Description of service provided
  - Child's progress to each service
  - Note whether individual or group therapy
- Provider's printed name, title, and handwritten or electronic signature

## Additional Resources

**All of the information included in today's training can be found in the [SBHS Billing Guide](#). In addition, audiologists participating in the SBHS program may find these resources helpful:**

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) [website](#)
  - Guidance on Medicaid billing
  - Guidance on CPT/HCPCS codes
  - Guidance on providing school-based hearing and speech services
- American Medical Association's [CPT Manual](#)



# Questions?

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SBHS webpage: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/sbhs>