

To:  
School-Based  
Services  
Providers

HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Licensing Requirements for School-Based Services Providers

In order to ensure continued federal Medicaid funding, effective February 1, 2005, Wisconsin Medicaid will no longer reimburse for school-based services provided by Department of Public Instruction (DPI)-licensed speech-language pathologists unless *one of the following is true*:

- The speech-language pathologist holds the certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- The speech-language pathologist has completed the educational requirements and work experience necessary for the ASHA certificate and has passed the PRAXIS exam in speech and language pathology (SLP).
- The speech-language pathologist has completed the educational requirements for the ASHA certificate, has passed the PRAXIS exam in SLP, and is acquiring supervised work experience to qualify for the certificate.
- The speech-language pathologist provided the services under the direction of a speech-language pathologist who holds an ASHA certificate or who meets the requirements for an ASHA certificate.

Also effective February 1, 2005, Wisconsin Medicaid will no longer

reimburse for school-based services provided by a DPI-licensed audiologist unless one of the following is true:

- The audiologist holds a license from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing (DR&L).
- The audiologist holds the certificate of clinical competence from ASHA.
- The audiologist meets other specific qualifications outlined in this *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update*.
- The audiologist provided the services under the direction of an audiologist who holds a license from DR&L or who meets other qualifications outlined in this *Update*.

Each school district and Cooperative Educational Service Agency will be responsible for documenting the qualifications of all of the speech-language pathologists and audiologists who provide school-based services for them. They will also be responsible for documenting the provision of services under the direction of a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist.

### Requirements for *Speech-Language Pathologists Providing School-Based Services*

Previously, Wisconsin Medicaid paid for school-based services (SBS) that were provided by speech-language pathologists who had a

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/).

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Department of Public Instruction (DPI) license. In order to ensure continued federal Medicaid funding, effective February 1, 2005, Wisconsin Medicaid will only reimburse a school district or a Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) provider for services provided by a DPI-licensed speech-language pathologist if one of the following is true:

- The speech-language pathologist holds the certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- The speech-language pathologist has completed the educational requirements and work experience necessary for the ASHA certificate and has passed the PRAXIS exam in speech and language pathology (SLP).
- The speech-language pathologist has completed the educational requirements for the ASHA certificate, has passed the PRAXIS exam in SLP, and is acquiring supervised work experience to qualify for the certificate.
- The speech-language pathologist provided the services under the direction of a speech-language pathologist who holds ASHA certification or who meets ASHA certification.

Each school district and CESA will be responsible for documenting the qualifications of all of the speech-language pathologists who provide services for them. They will also be responsible for documenting the provision of services provided under the direction of a speech-language pathologist. Please read the Attachment of this *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* for details.

## **Requirements for Audiologists Providing School-Based Services**

Previously, Wisconsin Medicaid paid for school-based services that were provided by audiologists who had a DPI license. In response to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective February 1, 2005, Wisconsin Medicaid will only reimburse SBS providers for services provided by a DPI-licensed audiologist if one of the following is true:

- The audiologist holds a license from Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing (DR&L).
- The audiologist holds the certificate of clinical competence from ASHA.
- The audiologist:
  - ✓ Has completed the educational requirements necessary for the ASHA certificate *and*;
  - ✓ Has successfully completed a minimum of 350 clock-hours of supervised clinical practicum (or is in the process of accumulating that supervised clinical experience under the supervision of a qualified Master's or doctoral-level audiologist) *and*;
  - ✓ Has performed at least nine months of full-time audiology services under the supervision of a qualified Master's or doctoral-level audiologist after obtaining a Master's or doctoral degree in audiology or a related field *and*;
  - ✓ Has passed the PRAXIS Exam in audiology.
- The audiologist provided the service under the direction of an audiologist who holds ASHA certification or who meets ASHA certification requirements.

**E**ach school district and CESA will be responsible for documenting the qualifications of all of the speech-language pathologists who provide services for them.

Each school district and CESA will be responsible for documenting the qualifications of all audiologists who provide services for

them. They will also be responsible for documenting the provision of services provided under the direction of an audiologist. Please read the Attachment for details.

### *“Under the Direction of” Guidelines*

The CMS recently published guidance on what they will require for federal reimbursement of services that are provided under the direction of a qualified audiologist. This guidance also applies to the provision of speech and language services because the federal code provision that allows services to be provided “under the direction of” applies to both audiologists and speech-language pathologists. In order to ensure continued funding, Wisconsin Medicaid will require school districts and CESAs to comply with the federal guidelines. Please read the Attachment for details.

### *Department of Public Instruction Licensing Requirements*

For more information about DPI licensing requirements, contact the DPI by doing any of the following:

- Visiting the DPI Web site at [www.dpi.state.wi.us/](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/). Then:
  - ✓ Choose “Educator Licensing” under the “DPI Services” heading.
  - ✓ Select “PI 34 — New Rules” under “Administrative Rules” in the Topical Index.
  - ✓ Scroll down the page; Speech-language pathologists may select “PI 34.30” under “Subchapter VII — Teaching Categories and Levels” and scroll down to PI 34.30(2)(L),” and audiologists may select “PI 34.34 Additional Licenses” under “Subchapter XI — Additional Licenses” and scroll down to “PI 34.34(12).”

**T**he CMS recently published guidance on what they will require for federal reimbursement of services that are provided under the direction of a qualified audiologist.

- Writing to:

Wisconsin Department of Public  
Instruction  
PO Box 7841  
Madison WI 53707-7841

- Calling the DPI at (800) 441-4563 (U.S. only) or (608) 266-3390.

### *Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing Requirements*

For more information about DR&L licensing requirements, contact the DR&L by doing one of the following:

- Visiting the DR&L Web site at [drl.wi.gov/](http://drl.wi.gov/). Then providers may:
  - ✓ Select “Health Professions” under “Professions and Business Entities.”
  - ✓ Select “Audiologist.”
  - ✓ Choose “Obtain License” on the left side of the page.
- Writing to:

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Regulation and  
Licensing  
PO Box 8935  
Madison WI 53708-8935

- Calling the DR&L at (608) 266-2811.

### *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*

Visit [www.asha.org/](http://www.asha.org/) to learn about the requirements for obtaining an ASHA certificate of clinical competence. The ASHA is a non-governmental, professional organization.

# ATTACHMENT

## Reimbursement Requirements for Services Provided Under the Direction of an Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist

To ensure continued federal funding, effective February 1, 2005, Wisconsin Medicaid will no longer reimburse for services provided under the direction/supervision of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist unless the following requirements are met:

- A supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist must meet the qualifications listed in this *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update*.
- The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist must see each recipient at the beginning of and periodically during treatment, be familiar with the treatment plan, have continued involvement in the care provided, and review the need for continued services throughout treatment.
- The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist must assume professional responsibility for the services provided under his or her direction.
- The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist must ensure that the individual working under his or her direction can contact him or her as necessary during the course of treatment.
- A supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist may not supervise more service providers than is reasonable, ethical, and in keeping with professional practice in order to permit the supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist to adequately fulfill his or her supervisory obligations and to ensure quality care.
- The entity employing the supervisory audiologist or speech-language pathologist is responsible for ensuring that these standards are met.
- The employing entity is responsible for ensuring that appropriate documentation is maintained to prove that the above requirements were met. The employing entity is also responsible for ensuring that there is appropriate documentation of services provided by the supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist and by the individuals working under the direction of the supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist.