Proposed Medicaid Funding Changes Ahead: What Audiologists and SLPs Need to Know Resource List

What is Medicaid?

• Medicare vs. Medicaid: A Guide for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

Medicaid Resources and References

- Explore <u>ASHA's Medicaid webpages</u>
- Use ASHA's <u>Medicaid Toolkit</u>
- See the status of state Medicaid expansion decisions
- FAQs on Billing Medicaid in Schools
- Cash or Private Pay With Medicaid Beneficiaries: Elements to Consider
- Good Faith Estimates and the No Surprises Act
- <u>Superbill templates</u>
- Medicaid reimbursement in schools

What has ASHA Done?

- Developed a <u>Take Action campaign</u> and participated in a 'Medicaid Day of Action' that has generated more than 10,000 messages from ASHA Advocates (in three weeks!) urging Congress to protect Medicaid.
- Participated in meetings with key lawmakers alongside coalition partners, such as the <u>Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities</u> and the <u>Modern Medicaid Alliance</u>, and ASHA's own <u>Health Care Economics Committee</u> and soon the ASHA <u>Medicaid Committee</u>, to explain why reducing Medicaid funding and making radical changes will harm the most vulnerable.
- Shared ASHA member and affiliate stories of Medicaid patients with Members of Congress to use in floor debates.
- Sent <u>letters to Congress</u> opposing policy proposals such as work requirements, per capita caps, and block grants. Some letters sent include
 - Letter from the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities sent in January and February.
 - <u>Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities co-chairs letter</u> opposing the budget resolution.
 - <u>Medicaid in Schools Coalition</u> letter opposing cuts to Medicaid.
- Hosts an annual <u>Payer Summit</u> to educate and learn from payer representatives ways we can improve coverage and payment of audiology and speech-language pathology services.
 2023's summit helped <u>create an adult habilitative benefit</u> for speech-language pathology services by a Medicaid program.
- Leveraged <u>ASHA-PAC</u> to amplify opposition to harmful changes.

- Leads and supports state-based Medicaid advocacy efforts to do things like expand coverage and improve reimbursement rates. Some examples include:
 - Collaborating with the South Carolina Speech Language Hearing Association to convince the state to continue <u>Medicaid coverage of speech</u>, occupational, and physical therapies delivered via telehealth.
 - Collaborated with the Idaho Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Idaho Medicaid to clarify SLPA billing practices and reimbursement rates in schools and remove paraprofessional Medicaid billing of speech language services in schools.
 - Working with the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association to secure a <u>\$5.5</u> million increase for speech-language pathology codes in 2025 from Michigan legislature.
 - After attending ASHA's Payer Summit, Georgia, Michigan, and Massachusetts Medicaid programs added coverage of the caregiver training codes to their fee schedule.
 - Initiated and collaborated Medicaid advocacy provider surveys with state speech language hearing associations in West Virginia, Washington, North Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Colorado to help substantiate reimbursement rate increase requests.
 - Collaborating with the Vermont Speech-Language Hearing Association (VSHA) to convince Vermont Medicaid to remove all prior authorization requirements for speech-language pathology services for children under age 21, remove the physician referral requirement for speech therapy, and increase the number of allowed visits for adults who need speech therapy.
- <u>ASHA Voices episode</u> on Medicaid advocacy in the states.

What Can ASHA Advocates Do?

- Take action to protect Medicaid NOW and ask your family, friends, patients, and colleagues to do the same! ASHA's take action campaigns are available to anyone you do not need to be a member to use them.
- Follow-up on responses to your letters with additional resources
- Attend a town hall and/or schedule a meeting with your federal representative(s) in their state/district
- Contribute to <u>ASHA-PAC</u>

Questions?

Contact <u>reimbursement@asha.org</u> and <u>federal@asha.org</u> for more information on Medicaid and Medicaid advocacy.

Thank you for joining our webinar!