



# EqualityCare News

June 2009

## Attention EqualityCare Providers

CMS-1500  
09-001

Please share this bulletin with the following staff:

- Office Manager
- EqualityCare Biller
- Physician(s)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE TO A CHANGE IN THE WYOMING STATUTE, EQUALITYCARE WILL ENROLL LICENSED INDIVIDUAL SPEECH THERAPISTS/PATHOLOGISTS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009.**

**THIS UPDATED POLICY ALSO APPLIES TO SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES PROVIDED BY A HOSPITAL, CORF, DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER OR HOME HEALTH AGENCY.**

### Description of Service

Speech (pathology) therapy services are those services necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of speech and language disorders, which result in communication disabilities and for the diagnosis and treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphagia), regardless of the presence of a communication disability.

### Policy

EqualityCare provides coverage for **medically necessary, restorative** speech therapy services as long as services remain medically necessary to the treatment of the client's illness or injury.

### Treatment Guidelines and Restorative Therapy Criteria

Speech therapy services provided to EqualityCare clients **must be restorative**.

The client must have a diagnosis of a speech disorder resulting from injury, trauma, or a medically based illness or disease.

There must be an expectation that the client's condition will improve significantly.



To be considered medically necessary, the services must meet **all** the following conditions:

- Be considered under standards of medical practice to be a specific and effective treatment for the client’s condition;
- Be of such a level of complexity and sophistication, or the condition of the client must be such that the services required can be performed safely and effectively only by a qualified therapist or under a therapist’s supervision;
- Be provided with the expectation that the client’s condition will improve significantly;
- The amount, frequency and duration of services must be reasonable

In order for speech therapy services to be covered, the services must be related directly to an active written treatment plan established by a physician and must be medically necessary to the treatment of the client’s illness or injury.

In addition to the above criteria, restorative therapy criteria will also include the following:

- If an individual’s expected restoration potential would be insignificant in relation to the extent and duration of services required to achieve such potential, the speech therapy services would not be considered medically necessary.
- If at any point during the treatment it is determined that services provided are not significantly improving the client’s condition, they may be considered not medically necessary and discontinued .

### Taxonomy/NPI

Individual speech therapists will use taxonomy code 235Z00000X.

\*\*\*DD Waiver providers who wish to provide non-waiver speech therapy services must re-enroll as individual speech therapists, obtain an NPI number, and bill using their NPI number and taxonomy code for speech therapy. Please visit the EqualityCare Website at <http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/NPI.html> for more information regarding NPI’s and <https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/wy/general/providerEnrollmentHome.do> to complete the online EqualityCare provider enrollment.

\*\*\*Speech therapists/pathologists who are employed by a Developmental Center will **not** be allowed to bill EqualityCare for speech therapy services **outside** of the Developmental Center setting for clients they provide speech therapy services to **in** the Developmental Center setting.

### Billing Codes

The following codes should be used by speech therapists when billing for speech therapy:

Speech Therapy	
Code	Description
92506	Evaluation of speech, language, voice, communication and/or auditory processing
92507	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; individual (1 unit = 15 minutes)
92508	Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); group, two or more individuals
92526	Treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding

## Limitations

The following conditions do not meet the medical necessity guidelines, and therefore will **not** be covered:

- Maintenance therapy
- Self-correcting disorders (e.g., natural dysfluency or articulation errors that are self-correcting)
- Services that are primarily educational in nature and encountered in school settings (e.g., psychosocial speech delay, behavioral problems, attention disorders, conceptual handicap, mental retardation, developmental delays, stammering and stuttering)
- Services that are not medically necessary
- Treatment of dialect and accent reduction
- Treatment whose purpose is vocationally or recreationally based
- Diagnosis or treatment in a school-based setting

Maintenance therapy consists of drills, techniques, and exercises that preserve the present level of function so as to prevent regression of the function and begins when therapeutic goals of treatment have been achieved and no further functional progress is apparent or expected.

In cases where the client receives both occupational and speech therapy, treatments should not be duplicated and separate treatment plans and goals should be provided.

## Cap Limits

EqualityCare clients age 21 and over will be limited to 20 speech therapy visits per year.

If the client has exceeded the EqualityCare limits on speech therapy visits, the provider may bill him/her, or request the cap limit be waived, as long as the services are still medically necessary. Please use the Cap Limit Waiver form when requesting a speech therapy cap limit waiver.

This form can be found at the following web address or contact ACS Provider Relations at 1-800-251-1268:

<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/bulletins/CAPLIMITWAIVERREQUESTFORM.pdf>

## Speech Therapy Diagnosis Codes

All speech therapy claims must include diagnosis code **V57.3** (care involving speech therapy) as the principal diagnosis code.



The following diagnosis codes are considered restorative and medically necessary for speech therapy:

<b>Covered Diagnosis Codes</b>	<b>Diagnosis Code Description</b>
141.0-141.9	Malignant neoplasm of the tongue
140-145.9	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of mouth
146.0-146.9	Malignant neoplasm of oropharynx
147.0-147.9	Malignant neoplasm of nasopharynx
149.0-149.9	Malignant neoplasm of other, and ill-defined sites within the lip, oral cavity and pharynx
150.0-150.9	Malignant neoplasm of esophagus
161.0-161.9	Malignant neoplasm of larynx
191.0-191.99	Malignant neoplasm of brain
192.0	Malignant neoplasm of the cranial nerves
192.1	Malignant neoplasm of the cerebral meninges
195.0	Malignant neoplasm of head, face, and neck
210.0-210.9	Benign neoplasm of lip, oral cavity, and pharynx
212.1	Benign neoplasm of the larynx
323.0-323.9	Encephalitis, myelitis, and encephalomyelitis
335.0-335.9	Anterior horn cell disease
340	Multiple sclerosis
342.92	Unspecified hemiplegia and hemiparesis affecting non-dominant side
348.1	Anoxic brain damage
348.3	Encephalopathy, unspecified
348.4	Compression of brain
359.0-359.9	Muscular dystrophies and other myopathies
389.0	Conductive hearing loss
389.9	Unspecified hearing loss
430	Subarachnoid hemorrhage
431	Intracerebral hemorrhage
432.0-432.9	Other and unspecified intracranial hemorrhage
433.0-433.9	Occlusion and stenosis of precerebral arteries
434.0-434.9	Occlusion of vertebral arteries

<b>Covered Diagnosis Codes</b>	<b>Diagnosis Code Description</b>
<b>436</b>	Acute, but ill-defined, cerebrovascular disease
<b>437.0-437.9</b>	Other, and ill-defined cerebrovascular disease
<b>438.82</b>	Late effect cerebrovascular disease, dysphagia
<b>476.0</b>	Chronic laryngitis and laryngotracheitis
<b>478.0</b>	Other diseases of upper respiratory tract
<b>478.4</b>	Polyp of vocal cord or larynx
<b>478.5</b>	Other diseases of vocal cords
<b>478.6</b>	Edema of larynx
<b>478.7</b>	Other diseases of larynx, not elsewhere classified
<b>507.0</b>	Pneumonitis due to inhalation of food or vomitus
<b>723.5</b>	Torticollis, unspecified
<b>742.9</b>	Unspecified anomaly of brain, spinal cord, and nervous system
<b>744.23</b>	Microtia
<b>749.0-749.9</b>	Cleft palate and cleft lip
<b>759.5</b>	Tuberous sclerosis
<b>780.01</b>	Coma
<b>783.3</b>	Feeding difficulties and mismanagement
<b>784.3</b>	Aphasia
<b>784.5</b>	Other speech disturbance
<b>787.2</b>	Dysphagia
<b>787.20</b>	Difficulty in swallowing, NOS
<b>802.2</b>	Mandible closed fracture
<b>802.3</b>	Mandible open fracture
<b>802.4</b>	Malar and maxillary bones, closed fracture
<b>802.8</b>	Other facial bones closed fracture
<b>804.0-804.9</b>	Multiple fractures involving skull or face with other bones
<b>850.0-850.9</b>	Concussion
<b>851.0-851.9</b>	Cerebral laceration and contusion
<b>852.0-852.5</b>	Subarachnoid, subdural, and extradural hemorrhage following injury
<b>853.0</b>	Other, and unspecified intracranial hemorrhage following injury
<b>853.1</b>	Intracranial hemorrhage following injury, with open intracranial wound
<b>854.0</b>	Intracranial injury of other, and unspecified nature, without mention of open intracranial wound
<b>854.1</b>	Intracranial injury of other, and unspecified nature, with open intracranial wound
<b>959.01</b>	Injury head, face and neck, head injury



Wyoming Department of Health  
Public Health Insurance Program



Pharmacy  
Group  
6530

## Attention EqualityCare Providers



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We're on the Web!  
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