



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: 12/1/2020
Contact: See below

TO: School Based Child Health Participating Districts

RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 45: Emergency SBCH Program Changes

As an interim measure in response to the Governor’s recent declaration of a public health emergency as the result of the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Department of Social Services (DSS) is temporarily expanding telemedicine to cover specified School Based Child Health (SBCH) services.

This provider bulletin supplements provider bulletin, PB20-26 CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 11: Emergency Temporary School Based Child Health (SBCH) program changes.

Effective for dates of service retroactive to March 16, 2020 until DSS has notified providers in writing that the state has deemed COVID-19 to no longer be a public health emergency (the “Temporary Effective Period”), the following services will be permissible to be rendered via telemedicine.

Proc Code	Description
92521	Evaluation of speech fluency
92522	Evaluation of speech production
92523	Evaluation of speech sound production c/ eval of language comp and expression
97161	PT Eval low complex, 20 min
97162	PT Eval mod complex, 30 min
97163	PT Eval high complex, 45 min
97165	OT Eval low complex, 30 min
97166	OT Eval mod complex, 45 min
97167	OT Eval high complex, 60 min

Billing and Documentation Guidelines

As noted in PB20-09, subject to all other applicable requirements for reimbursement under the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP), the following guidelines apply to all services rendered via telemedicine:

- Reimbursement/payment rates are the same as for equivalent in-person services;
- Documentation must be maintained by the provider to substantiate the services provided;
- Comply with all CMAP requirements that would otherwise apply to the same service performed face-to-face (in-person), including, but not limited to, enrollment, scope of practice, licensure, documentation, billing and other applicable requirements;
- If a telehealth service cannot be provided or completed for any reason, such as due to a technical difficulty, providers shall not submit a claim.

Telemedicine Modifiers

All providers billing for telemedicine services must append the telemedicine modifier to the claim. As noted in PB20-09, the following modifier is being used in SBCH.

- Modifier “GT” is used when the member’s originating site is located in a healthcare facility or office; or
- Modifier “95” is used when the member is located in the home.

For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedules on the CMAP Web site, please contact the Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA):

In a notice issued on March 17, 2020 (posted at this link: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) posted updated guidance on the enforcement discretion for telehealth remote communications during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Providers should consult with this communication and future communications from OCR regarding their obligations under HIPAA.

Providers must continue to ensure that they comply with all applicable federal requirements and guidance. While the COVID-19 national public emergency may result in exceptions issued by OCR, DSS still recommends that, whenever possible, providers should fully comply with all details of HIPAA privacy and security rule provisions as written in order to best safeguard the privacy and security of protected health information. For more information: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/index.html> and any other federal guidance that may be issued in the future.

Posting Instructions:

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution:

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the CMAP by Gainwell Technologies

Responsible Units:

DSS, Division of Health Services

School Based Child Health Contact:

Krista Pender, Reimbursement Manager at (860) 424-5390 or krista.pender@ct.gov

Date Issued:

December 2020