

August 11, 2023

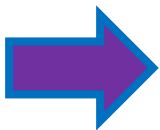
## Speech Therapy Medicaid Stipend

Please refer to El Colorado's [website](#) and informational document about the Speech-Language Pathology Medicaid Stipend [document](#) for more information (also on pg. 3 of this document).

**Speech-Language Pathologists submitting for stipend reimbursement to RMHS should make sure the following is sent to RMHS billing. *Reminder: Invoices must be submitted electronically in a non-editable PDF format via a HIPAA secure encryption platform to Invoices@rmhumanservices.org***

### Stipend Reimbursement E-mail Must Include:

- ✓ A progress note showing the outpatient CPT encounter code that was billed to Medicaid (Ex: 92507, 92526) must be submitted to the Invoices inbox listing an additional 1-unit charge line for "ST Stipend"
  - The stipend is **not** billable when:
    - Revenue codes are billed (Home Health providers)
    - Two CPT codes are billed together
    - An evaluation code is billed (Ex: 92523)
    - The visit was less than 53 minutes (4 units)
    - Any scenario in which RMHS is the responsible biller and the RMHS contracted rate is being paid
    - If "ST Stipend" is not listed on the contact note
    - For any service other than Speech Therapy on the IFSP



It is helpful if the file is labeled to show an ST Stipend is being charged:

- Example: ABC Provider\_08.03.23\_John Doe\_July 1 2023\_ST STIPEND

**ADDENDUM B**  
**FY 2023-2024 EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE RATES for GENERAL FUND**  
**[Effective July 1, 2023]**

| Allowable EI Services   | Most Frequently Used Rate | Rate per unit (1 unit = 15 minutes) | Most Frequent Fee |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Assistive Technology (consult/eval)   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Assistive Technology (equipment)  | \$1.00                    | \$1.00                              | N/A               |
| Audiology   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (Social Emotional)                                       | \$62                      | \$15.50                             | 12%               |
| Developmental Intervention  | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Developmental Intervention Assistant and/or Behavior Specialist                                     | \$62                      | \$15.50                             | 12%               |
| Evaluations & IFSP Meetings   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Health  | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Interpreter   | \$73                      | \$18.25                             | 12%               |
| Medical   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| No Show (maximum of 1 unit may be billed and a maximum of 2 no shows per child in a 6-month period) | \$25.75                   | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Nursing   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Nutrition   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Occupational Therapy  | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Occupational Therapist Assistant (Certified)  | \$62                      | \$15.50                             | 12%               |
| Physical Therapy  | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Physical Therapy Assistant  | \$62                      | \$15.50                             | 12%               |
| Primary Service Provider/Transdisciplinary Teaming (maximum of 8 units may be billed per month)     | \$52                      | \$13                                | 12%               |
| Psychological   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Sign Language and Cued Language   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Social & Emotional  | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Speech-Language Pathology   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Speech-Language Pathology Assistant   | \$62                      | \$15.50                             | 12%               |
| Speech-Language Pathology Medicaid Stipend (maximum of 1 unit)                                      | \$30                      | \$30                                | 12%               |
| Vision (Individual)   | \$103                     | \$25.75                             | 12%               |
| Vision (Group)  | \$52                      | \$13                                | 12%               |

\*RMHS' reimbursement varies greatly depending on CPT codes and contracts with funders. Regardless of funding source or reimbursement, Provider reimbursement will vary depending on the services provided and time associated with the service. RMHS applies a billing fee that is between 0% and 27%. The most frequently utilized fee is 12%. In the event RMHS is paid less than \$103 per hour there is no billing fee passed onto the Provider. RMHS reserves the right to modify provider rates and shall provide notice to the Provider of such a change.

## Speech Language Pathology (SLP) Stipend

### Background:

Early Intervention (EI) speech and language services provided for children enrolled in Medicaid and are billed as an outpatient encounter Speech Language Pathology (SLP) code are reimbursed at significantly less than unit based billing. This means that a 60 minute SLP session would be reimbursed at approximately \$30 less than the average hourly rate for an SLP EI service provided to a child not enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid's reimbursement of a 60 minute SLP service is approximately \$70 less than Medicaid reimbursement for a 60 minute Physical Therapy (PT) or Occupational Therapy (OT) service.

### Encounter Code Billing:

Encounter code billing means that the encounter is paid at a set rate regardless of length of time spent in the session. Part of an expected EI service is the monitoring of progress towards Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes. OT/PT are able to bill for their units of time spent in session working on the families' prioritized concerns and monitoring the IFSP (usually 4 units). SLPs can only bill 1 unit for their entire session working on families' prioritized concerns and monitoring the IFSP regardless of time spent. Currently there is no way for SLPs to capture the additional time spent working on the monitoring of IFSP outcomes. Speech and language services are in high demand and there is a need to recruit and retain providers to provide this service, for both Medicaid-enrolled and non-Medicaid-enrolled children.

### Important Information:

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) EI program received additional funding from the legislature to invest in the recruitment and retention of the EI Workforce. An EI Workforce Investment Committee was convened to make recommendations to the department on the best way to invest these funds. One of the decisions of the Committee was to recommend that the CDEC establish a \$30 stipend for subcontracted providers that are billing Medicaid for a speech and/or language session for helping to support the monitoring of IFSP outcomes. This stipend is being implemented as of July 1, 2023. The stipend may be billed under the following circumstance:

1. A 60 minute session being billed for one outpatient SLP code which pays the Encounter Code rate set by Medicaid

### This does not apply to:

1. A 30 minute SLP session billed for one outpatient SLP code which pays the Encounter Code rate
2. A 60 minute SLP session billed to a Revenue Code
3. A 30 minute SLP session billed to a Revenue Code
4. Any session provided by a direct service provider employed by a local early intervention program under contract with the CDEC
5. Sessions where two Encounter Codes are billed together
6. Sessions where an SLP Outpatient Evaluation Code is billed
7. Evaluations conducted by an Evaluation Entity and billed to the T1026 code

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