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## MEMORADUM

**TO:** Early Intervention Providers

**FROM:** Amy S. Tarr, Chief *Amy S. Tarr*  
Bureau of Early Intervention

**DATE:** December 30, 2013

**RE:** Speech Therapy Evaluation Codes

The Bureau of Early Intervention (Bureau) was recently made aware of an announcement from ASHA regarding the CMS rule replacing the Speech Evaluation CPT Code 92506 with more specific codes effective January 1, 2014. The link to the announcement is listed here: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-28696\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-28696_PI.pdf)

In summary, the new codes, with descriptions, are as follows:

- 92521 – Evaluation of speech fluency (e.g., stuttering, cluttering)
- 92522 – Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g. articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria)
- 92523 – Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g. articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language)
- 92524 – Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance

The Bureau has reached out to the Department of Healthcare & Family Services (HFS), the state's Medicaid agency, regarding the necessary code changes. Based on HFS guidance, the Bureau is helping to let all Speech Therapy providers know that they must follow the CMS rule with all dates of service effective January 1, 2014.

To facilitate this change, the Bureau is going to initiate a change in billing procedures used for Speech Therapy Evaluations for dates of service beginning January 1, 2014. The new procedure will be as follows:

- EI Service Coordinators will continue to provide an authorization for an evaluation of speech using code 92506.
- The credentialed Speech Evaluator will perform the necessary evaluation(s) following the new CMS guidance.
- The claim submitted to the EI CBO must indicate the new, specific Speech Evaluations(s) performed, including the units involved per code if multiple evaluations were performed under the new guidelines.
- **EI CBO will deny a claim using code 92506 for any dates of service after December 31, 2013. All dates of service prior to January 1, 2014 must still use the 92506, regardless of the date the claim is submitted.**

The process of billing for Speech Evaluations will be the same except that you will need to be more specific in billing your actions taken during the evaluation process based on the specific evaluation performed. Each evaluation code submitted will have to reflect the total units to perform the EI Evaluation process. The combined units must not exceed the pre-authorized amount. As part of the new codes, it is known that there may be times when more than one code could be necessary. There are codes that cannot be combined due to duplication. The release from ASHA specifies, for example, that 92522 and 92523 cannot be billed together on the same day as the 92522 activity (speech sound production evaluation) is already included in the 92523 activity (speech sound production evaluation with language evaluation). Please see the ASHA announcement for guidance on this issue.

The Bureau reminds all evaluating providers that the Payee Agreement and the EI Service Descriptions, Billing Codes and Rates (Provider Handbook), state that the claim should reflect only the time used that can be supported by documented activities of the evaluation. It is against policy to round up time to bill. A written report of the findings of the Speech Evaluation must still be submitted on the required report format. The Bureau will only need one report on the approved Early Intervention Evaluation Report format, regardless of how many specific evaluation code(s) are performed and billed.

Thank you for your continued service to Illinois Early Intervention children!