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# **School Health and Related Services (SHARS) Policy Updates**

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**Topic One: Understanding SHARS  
as Medicaid Medical Policy**

# Presenters

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- **Leslie Smart, OTR, DSc** serves as the Medical Benefits (MB) Director in the MB Department in the Office of Policy and Program (OPP) in the Medicaid and CHIP Services (MCS) Division of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
- **Jennifer Daniels, MPA** serves as the SHARS Policy Analyst in the MB Department in the OPP in the MCS Division of the Texas HHSC.



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# Objectives

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## Participants will identify:

- Rationale and key dates for SHARS policy updates
- Federal statutes and regulations relating to Special Education and the provision of Medicaid in schools
- Which areas of Medicaid in schools are medical policy related vs. rates/reimbursement related
- SHARS as a Medicaid medical policy governed by federal statutes and regulations
- Medicaid medical policy processes



# Background

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- On the [Medicaid Medical & Dental Policies](#) webpage, the draft SHARS policy posted for two-week public comment period (external stakeholder review)
  - Comment period for SHARS policy was from January 12, through January 26, 2021
- Responses to those public comments are currently posted but will not remain posted permanently.



# Background

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**On August 13, 2021, 3 notifications were published on tmhp.com to alert the public to SHARS changes:**

- [SHARS Updates to Audiology Services Under Section 504 Plan](#)
- [SHARS - Updates to Interim Claiming and Cost Reporting Requirements for SHARS PT, OT, ST, and Audiology Services](#)
- [SHARS Benefits to Change for Texas Medicaid October 1, 2021](#)



# Key Dates

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## **November 1, 2021**

- New School Health and Related Services (SHARS) Handbook created for the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM)
- Grace period begins for referring/prescribing National Provider Identifier (NPI) for SHARS therapy and audiology services
- Slight changes to SHARS medical benefits



# Key Dates

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## **October 1, 2022**

- Tentative future implementation date for audiology services provided to students with a Section 504 plan

## **November 1, 2022**

- Grace period ends for referring/prescribing NPI



# SHARS Program Overview

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- School Health and Related Services (SHARS) are Medicaid services provided by school districts and public charter schools in Texas.
- SHARS jointly overseen by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Allows local school districts, including public charter schools, to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for certain health-related services documented in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)





# SHARS Program Overview

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## **SHARS reimbursement is provided for students who:**

- Are 20 years of age or younger and eligible for Medicaid
- Meet eligibility requirements for special education described in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Have (IEPs) that prescribe the needed services



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# Medicaid and HHSC

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- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), oversees Medicaid program at federal level
- CMS approves Medicaid state plan created by states
- Federal Medicaid regulations require each state to designate single state agency responsible for state's Medicaid program
- Texas HHSC has been single state agency for Texas Medicaid program since January 1993.



# IDEA Part B and TEA

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- Allocated by state
- State plan approved by Department of Education (DOE)
- Administered by the State Education Agency, Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Outlines requirements for IEPs
- Provides oversight of IDEA compliance



# Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988

Amended 1903(c) of the SSA to permit Medicaid payment for services under IDEA through a child's IEP or IFSP

Nothing in this title shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting, or authorizing the Secretary to prohibit or restrict, payment under subsection (a) **for medical assistance for covered services furnished to a child with a disability because such services are included in the child's individualized education program established pursuant to part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or furnished to an infant or toddler with a disability because such services are included in the child's individualized family service plan adopted pursuant to part C of such Act.**

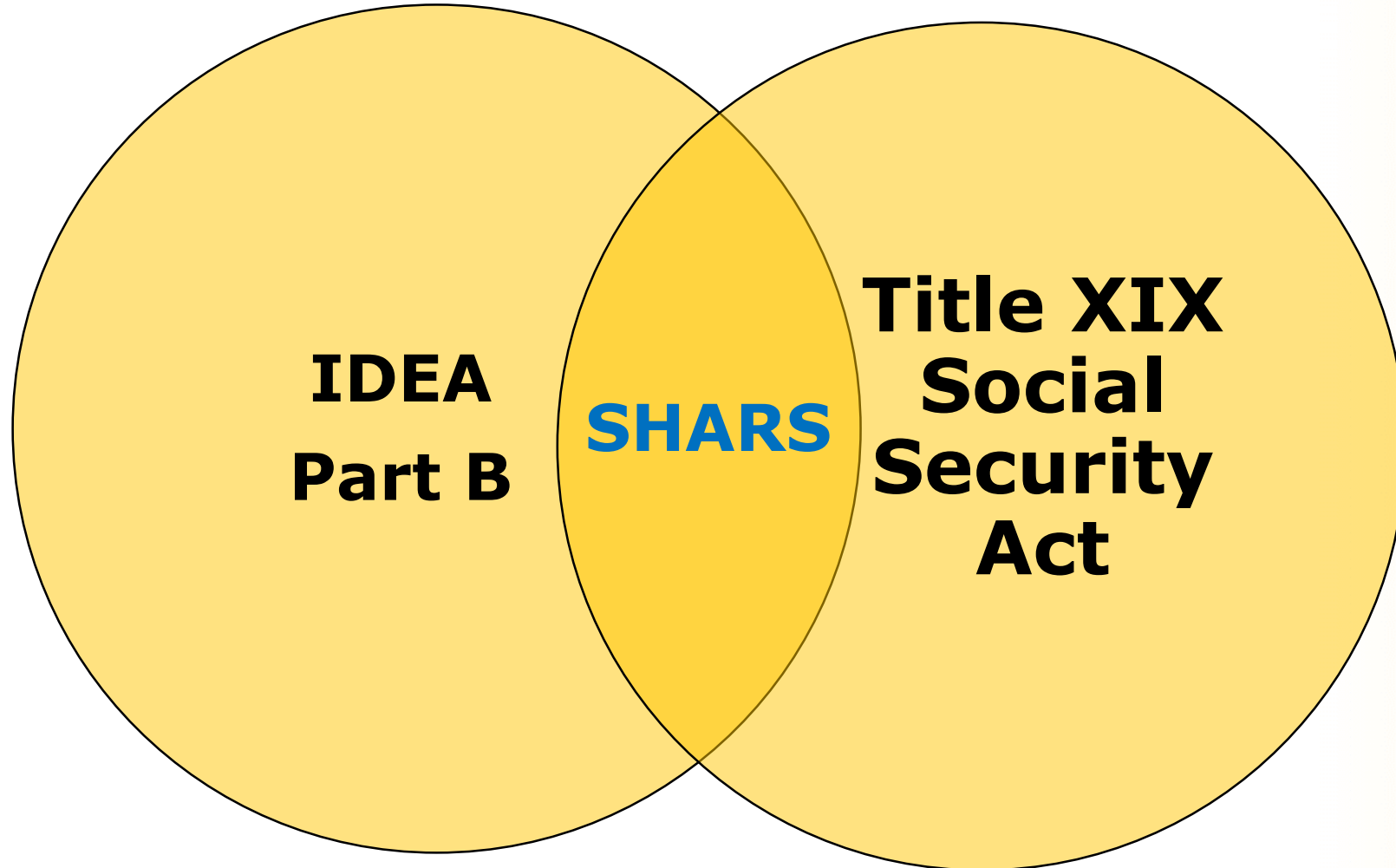
-SSA 1903(c), Payments to States



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# Nexus of Two Funding Statutes



# Policy vs. Rates in Texas Medicaid

**HHSC: Texas  
SHARS  
Program**

**Medical Policy**  
**Medicaid & CHIP  
Services Office  
of Policy and  
Program**

**Rates**  
**Provider  
Finance  
Department  
(PFD)**

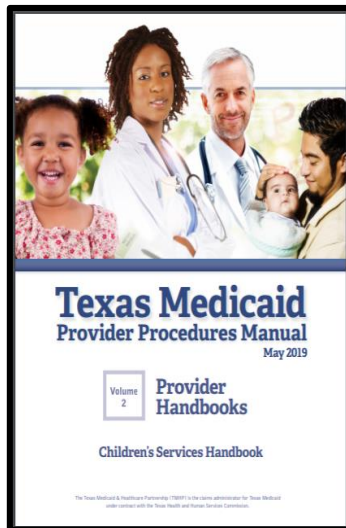
Approved 4/25/07. Revised 08/21/09

**TEXAS TIMESTUDY  
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR DIRECT SERVICES AND  
MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMING  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 25, 2007**

**Texas  
Medicaid  
Provider  
Procedures  
Manual  
(TMPPM)**

**Random  
Moment  
Time  
Study  
(RMTS)**

**Reimbursement**



*\* SHARS Handbook  
Effective 11/1/2021*



**Texas School Health and Related Services  
(SHARS) Cost Report Instructions**



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# Medicaid Medical Policy Process

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## Phase I - Planning Phase

- Topic nomination
- Topic research & scoring
- Preliminary fiscal impact assessment
- Governance Committee



\*All medical policies developed by MB go through a standardized multi-phase process.

# Medicaid Medical Policy Process

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## Phase II – Development Phase

- Initiation of policy development
- Internal stakeholder review (to include TEA for SHARS)
- Present new procedure codes at public rate hearing, if applicable
- Draft policy posting for two-week public comment period (external stakeholder review)
  - Comment period for SHARS policy was from January 12, 2021 through January 26, 2021
- Policy revisions considered based on public comments

\*All medical policies developed by MB go through a standardized multi-phase process.





# Medicaid Medical Policy Process

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## Phase III – Approval Phase

- Present policy to internal stakeholders
- Coordinate planned implementation date around TAC and federal updates, such as state plan amendments (SPA)
- Leadership approval



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\*All medical policies developed by MB go through a standardized multi-phase process.

# Medicaid Medical Policy Process

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## Phase IV – Implementation Phase

- Submit direction to Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) to implement policy  
~ 90 days before implementation
- Draft and review provider notices and proposed updates to TMPPM  
~45 days before implementation



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\*All medical policies developed by MB go through a standardized multi-phase process.

## TAC rule changes and SPAs are required for some SHARS medical policy updates

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H.B. No. 706

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the eligibility of certain children who are deaf or hard  
3 of hearing for audiology services under the school health and  
4 related services program.

# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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- **What:** SHARS Medicaid program policy will officially become SHARS Medicaid medical policy
- **When:** November 1, 2021
- **Why:** SHARS are medical services governed by federal Medicaid statutes and regulations.





# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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- **Where:** TMPPM Children's Services Handbook, Section 3 moved into newly created standalone SHARS Handbook.
- **How:** Medicaid and CHIP will have primary responsibility of:
  - Updating the SHARS Handbook in the TMPPM
  - Answering medical policy related questions
  - Collaborating with PFD on TAC rule changes and implementing legislation



# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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## TMPPM SHARS Handbook

- Formal SHARS Medicaid medical policy benefit description
  - Replaces TMPPM Children's Services Handbook, Section 3
  - Replaces Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Supplements Cost Report Instructions and RMTS Texas Time Study Guide



# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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## SHARS audiology services for 504 students

- Pending CMS approval for SPA
- Medical policy updates and training instructions/guides will not be updated until SPA approved
- Targeting an October 1, 2022 implementation date, upon CMS approval



# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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- Referring/prescribing NPI required for interim claiming and cost reporting for therapy and audiology services
  - Title 42 (Public Health) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
    - CFR § 455.440 National Provider Identifier
    - CFR § 455.410 Enrollment and Screening of Providers
    - CFR § 440.110 Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Services for Individuals with Speech, Hearing, and Language Disorders
- TMPPM will be updated to include policy language relevant to NPI requirements
  - Implements November 1, 2021 with a grace period through October 31, 2022





# SHARS Medicaid Medical Policy

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## Changes to SHARS medical benefits

- New billable procedure codes for audiology evaluation and management services
- New documentation requirements for all SHARS services, including special transportation
- Implements November 1, 2021



# External Stakeholder Feedback

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**SHARS medical policy updates impact a wide range of SHARS providers, third-party vendors, and members of the public**

- External stakeholder feedback is important
  - Direct all medical policy inquiries to [MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us)
  - Direct all rates and reimbursement inquiries to [ProviderFinanceSHARS@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:ProviderFinanceSHARS@hhs.texas.gov)



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# SHARS Medical Policy Development

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- Policy development is ongoing and iterative
- Future changes forthcoming
- Goal to incorporate external and internal stakeholder feedback into current and upcoming SHARS policy updates
  - Standards of care for medical policy and federal statutes/regulations guide SHARS policymaking



# Future Policy Amendments

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- Correct coding for SHARS benefits
- Clarification on documentation requirements
- Clarification on SHARS benefits, as determined by a thorough policy review of each service category
- Policy updates mandated by federal and/or state laws



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# Future Webinars

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**As a registered attendee of this webinar, you are pre-registered for:**

- **SHARS Policy Updates Topic Two: National Provider Identifier (NPI)**

Friday, October 1, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm Central Daylight Time (CDT)

- **SHARS Policy Updates Topic Three: Documentation Requirements**

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm CDT



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# Future Webinars

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- HHSC will continue holding webinars as needed, registration instructions will be provided at a later date.
- Future topics may address:
  - Standard billing practices
  - Additional questions received through the Medicaid Benefit Request mailbox
  - Future SHARS medical policy amendments





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# Questions?

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# Thank you

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[MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:MedicaidBenefitRequest@hhsc.state.tx.us)





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# **Additional Resources**

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# Title 34 (Education) Part 300 CFR Subpart D - Evaluations, Eligibility Determinations, Individualized Education Programs, and Educational Placements

## **PARENTAL CONSENT (§ 300.300)**

[§ 300.300 Parental consent.](#)

## **EVALUATIONS AND REEVALUATIONS (§§ 300.301 - 300.306)**

[§ 300.301 Initial evaluations.](#)

[§ 300.302 Screening for instructional purposes is not evaluation.](#)

[§ 300.303 Reevaluations.](#)

[§ 300.304 Evaluation procedures.](#)

[§ 300.305 Additional requirements for evaluations and reevaluations.](#)

[§ 300.306 Determination of eligibility.](#)

## **ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES (§§ 300.307 - 300.311)**

[§ 300.307 Specific learning disabilities.](#)

[§ 300.308 Additional group members.](#)

[§ 300.309 Determining the existence of a specific learning disability.](#)

[§ 300.310 Observation.](#)

[§ 300.311 Specific documentation for the eligibility determination.](#)

## **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (§§ 300.320 - 300.323)**

[§ 300.320 Definition of individualized education program.](#)

[§ 300.321 IEP Team.](#)

[§ 300.322 Parent participation.](#)

[§ 300.323 When IEPs must be in effect.](#)

## **DEVELOPMENT OF IEP (§§ 300.324 - 300.328)**

[§ 300.324 Development, review, and revision of IEP.](#)

[§ 300.325 Private school placements by public agencies.](#)

# Title 42 (Public Health) CFR Chapter IV

## Subchapter C – Medical Assistance Programs



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### TITLE 42—Public Health

#### CHAPTER IV—CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### SUBCHAPTER C—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

| Part | Table of Contents | Headings  |
|------|-------------------|---|
| 430  | 430.0 to 430.104  | GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  |
| 431  | 431.1 to 431.1010 | STATE ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION   |
| 432  | 432.1 to 432.55   | STATE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION  |
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| 438  | 438.1 to 438.930  | MANAGED CARE  |
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| 441  | 441.1 to 441.745  | SERVICES: REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC SERVICES   |
| 442  | 442.1 to 442.119  | STANDARDS FOR PAYMENT TO NURSING FACILITIES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES |
| 447  | 447.1 to 447.522  | PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES   |
| 455  | 455.1 to 455.518  | PROGRAM INTEGRITY: MEDICAID   |
| 456  | 456.1 to 456.725  | UTILIZATION CONTROL   |

# TMPPPM

## Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPPM)

- Updated monthly and available at [www.tmhp.com](http://www.tmhp.com)
  - Click on 'Resources'
  - Click on 'Provider Manuals'
  - Click on 'Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual'



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