




**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
*www.mass.gov/masshealth*



MassHealth  
Transmittal Letter SHC-18  
January 2012

**TO:** Speech and Hearing Centers Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Julian J. Harris, M.D., Medicaid Director 

**RE:** Revisions to Subchapter 6 (Service Codes and Descriptions)

Section 6507 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Laws 111-148 and 111-152), as implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), requires state Medicaid agencies to incorporate compatible methodologies of the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI). NCCI was implemented by CMS to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment. This requirement is effective for claims for dates of service on or after October 1, 2010, that are processed by MassHealth on or after April 1, 2011.

#### Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)

MUEs are units-of-service edits that define for certain HCPCS/CPT codes the number of units of service beyond which the reported number of units of service is unlikely to be correct. Providers are advised to review *All Provider Bulletin 209*, issued in April 2011, which describes in greater detail NCCI MUE requirements and provides the link to the CMS Web site that providers may access to obtain a full list codes to which MUEs apply.

To conform to NCCI coding edits, MassHealth has updated Subchapter 6 of the *Speech and Hearing Center Manual* to reflect revisions made to the maximum units allowed for service codes **92507 and 92508** from four units per visit to one unit per visit. These service codes were previously payable for MassHealth based on a 15-minute unit (maximum four units per visit), and are now payable based on a single unit (maximum one unit per visit) instead of on minutes.

Consequently, the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP) has revised the rates for these two codes. The new rates for these codes take effect for dates of service beginning June 1, 2011. MassHealth had previously informed providers of these changes through message text issued in June, 2011.

### Fee Schedule

If you wish to obtain a fee schedule, you may download the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy regulations at no cost at [www.mass.gov/dhcfp](http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp). You may also purchase a paper copy of Division of Health Care Finance and Policy regulations from either the Massachusetts State Bookstore or from the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (see addresses and telephone numbers below). You must contact them first to find out the price of the paper copy of the publication. The regulation title is 114.3 CMR 39.00: Rehabilitation Clinic Services, Audiological Services, Restorative Services.

Massachusetts State Bookstore  
State House, Room 116  
Boston, MA 02133  
Telephone: 617-727-2834  
[www.mass.gov/sec/spr](http://www.mass.gov/sec/spr)

Division of Health Care Finance and Policy  
Two Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
Telephone: 617-988-3100  
[www.mass.gov/dhcfp](http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp)

### Procedure-to-Procedure Code Pair Editing

In addition to implementing MUEs as described above, MassHealth has also implemented NCCI procedure-to-procedure code pair editing, which are automated prepayment edits that prevent improper payment when certain service codes are billed by the same provider for the same member on the same date of service. Speech and hearing center providers are again advised to review *All Provider Bulletin 209*, which describes in greater detail NCCI procedure-to-procedure edit requirements and provides the link to the CMS Web site that providers may access to obtain a full list of codes to which procedure-to-procedure edits apply.

### Claims Processing

All speech and hearing center claims submitted to MassHealth for dates of service on or after October 1, 2010, that are processed on or after April 1, 2011, will be edited for NCCI procedure-to-procedure edits. With the exception of claims for Service Codes 92507 and 92508, speech and hearing center claims submitted to MassHealth for dates of service on or after October 1, 2010, that are processed on or after April 1, 2011, will be edited for NCCI MUEs. Claims with Service Codes 92507 and 92508 with dates of service on or after October 1, 2010, that are processed on or after June 1, 2011, will be edited for MUEs. Any such claims using HCPCS/CPT codes that include code pairs on the NCCI edit list, or using codes billed with units of service greater than the MUE limit, will result in payment denials.

Due to the timing of system updates, MassHealth may need to later reprocess and adjust claims to ensure proper NCCI editing.

Please note that MUE limits and procedure-to-procedure code edits supersede any approved prior authorizations (PAs) in the system. Claims over the MUE limit or that include code pairs on the NCCI edit lists will be denied even if they have an approved PA that would otherwise allow coverage and payment of the service. If a claim with such an approved PA is denied solely due to NCCI editing, providers should request agency review of the denial. Consult *All Provider Bulletin 209* for further information about NCCI editing, including Agency review and appeals of claims denials.

### **MassHealth Web Site**

This transmittal letter and attached pages are available on the MassHealth Web site at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth).

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this transmittal letter, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.

### **NEW MATERIAL**

(The pages listed here contain new or revised language.)

#### **Speech and Hearing Center Manual**

Pages vi, vii, 6-1, and 6-2

### **OBSOLETE MATERIAL**

(The pages listed here are no longer in effect.)

#### **Speech and Hearing Center Manual**

Page vi — transmitted by Transmittal Letter SHC-13

Page vii — transmitted by Transmittal Letter SHC-14

Pages 6-1 and 6-2 — transmitted by Transmittal Letter SHC-15

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Speech and Hearing Center Manual		

The regulations and instructions governing provider participation in MassHealth are published in the Provider Manual Series. MassHealth publishes a separate manual for each provider type.

Each manual in the series contains administrative regulations, billing regulations, program regulations, service codes and descriptions, billing instructions, and general information. MassHealth's regulations are incorporated into the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR), a collection of regulations promulgated by state agencies within the Commonwealth and by the Secretary of State. Regulations promulgated by MassHealth are assigned Title 130 of the Code. Pages that contain regulatory material have a CMR chapter number in the banner beneath the subchapter number and title.

Administrative regulations and billing regulations apply to all providers and are contained in 130 CMR Chapter 450.000. These regulations are reproduced as Subchapters 1, 2, and 3 in this and all other provider manuals.

Program regulations cover matters that apply specifically to the type of provider for which the manual was prepared. For speech and hearing centers, those matters are covered in 130 CMR Chapter 413.000, reproduced as Subchapter 4 in the *Speech and Hearing Center Manual*.

Revisions and additions to the manual are made as needed by means of transmittal letters, which provide instructions for substituting, adding, or removing pages. Some transmittal letters will be directed to all providers; others will be addressed to providers in specific provider types. In this way, a provider will receive all those transmittal letters that affect its manual, but no others.

The Provider Manual Series is intended for the convenience of providers. Neither this nor any other manual can or should contain every federal and state law and regulation that might affect a provider's participation in MassHealth. The provider manuals represent instead MassHealth's effort to give each provider a single convenient source for the essential information providers need in their routine interaction with MassHealth and with MassHealth members.

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions

Note:

- (A) I.C. indicates that the claim will receive individual consideration to determine payment. See 130 CMR 413.407 for I.C. requirements.
- (B) Some service codes require prior authorization (P.A.). See 130 CMR 413.408 for prior authorization requirements.

Service

Code    Modifier    Service Description

**Audiological Services**

92552	Pure tone audiometry (threshold); air only
92553	air and bone (S.P. to 92552)
92555	Speech audiometry threshold
92556	with speech recognition
92557	Comprehensive audiometry threshold evaluation and speech recognition (92553 and 92556 combined)
92562	Loudness balance test, alternate binaural or monaural (S.P. to 92563 through 92565)
92563	Tone decay test (S.P. to 92562, 92564, and 92565)
92564	Short increment sensitivity index (SISI) (S.P. to 92562, 92563, and 92565)
92565	Stenger test, pure tone (S.P. to 92562 through 92564)
92567	Tympanometry (impedance testing)
92568	Acoustic reflex testing (S.P. to 92569)
92569	Acoustic reflex decay test (S.P. to 92568)
92572	Staggered spondaic word test (S.P. to 92576 and 92577)
92576	Synthetic sentence identification test (S.P. to 92571 and 92577)
92577	Stenger test, speech (S.P. to 92571 and 92576)
92582	Conditioning play audiometry
92583	Select picture audiometry (I.C.)
92584	Electrocochleography (I.C.)
92585	Auditory evoked potentials for evoked response audiometry and/or testing of the central nervous system; comprehensive
92586	limited
92587	Evoked otoacoustic emissions; limited (single stimulus level, either transient or distortion products)
92588	comprehensive or diagnostic evaluation (comparison of transient and/or distortion product otoacoustic emissions at multiple levels and frequencies)
92590	Hearing aid examination and selection; monaural
92591	binaural
92592	Hearing aid check, monaural (Listening check of the instrument plus sound field testing of the instrument on the patient. May or may not be performed together with a diagnostic evaluation.)
92593	binaural

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601 Service Codes and Descriptions (cont.)

Service

Code      Modifier      Service Description

92594		Electroacoustical evaluation for hearing aid; monaural (real ear measurement (REM) objective test of hearing instrument performance in the patient's ear as compared to a target response and electroacoustical assessment of the performance evaluation of the hearing instrument as compared to its original factory specifications)
92595		binaural
92596		Ear protector attenuation measurements
92620		Evaluation of central auditory function, with report; initial 60 minutes
92621		Evaluation of central auditory function, with report, each additional 15 minutes (up to the maximum of eight units billed)

**Other Procedures**

92700		Unlisted otorhinolaryngological service or procedure (I.C.)
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**Speech and Language Services**

92506		Evaluation of speech, language, voice, communication, auditory processing, and/or aural rehabilitation status (per hour, maximum of three hours)
92506	HA	Evaluation of speech, language, voice, communication, auditory processing, and/or aural rehabilitation status, child/adolescent program (for children (age of 12 and younger); per hour, maximum of four hours)
92507		Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder (includes aural rehabilitation); individual (maximum one unit per visit)
92508		group, two or more individuals (but less than seven individuals) (each member) (maximum one unit per visit)

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