

BRIEF SUMMARY

Medicaid Qualifications for Audiologists

Old Medicaid Regulation

42 CFR 440.110 (c)(2):

- Combined speech pathologist & audiologist standard
- CCC-A
- Or equivalent educational requirements and work experience
- Supervision guidance absent for lesser-qualified providers “under the direction of” audiologist

ASHA Policy Position

ASHA urged CMS to:

- Recognize audiology as an autonomous and distinct profession
- Standards in all state licensing laws & regulations for Medicaid population, equal to or greater than CCC-A
- Tighten loophole in equivalency clause that has allowed lesser-qualified providers to bill directly for Medicaid audiology services
- Strengthen “under the direction of” guidance to ensure that only audiologists provide or supervise audiology services for Medicaid beneficiaries

New CMS Regulation

5/28/2004 Federal Register Notice:

- New separate section for audiologists qualifications
- State license for audiologists, providing that the State licensure requirements meet or exceed:
 - ✓ **CCC-A**
 - or
 - ✓ **Medicare statutory definition (1993 CCC-A standards)**
- States that lack audiologist licensure, have lesser licensure standards than above, or exempt audiologists practicing in specific settings (such as schools):
 - ✓ **CCC-A**
 - or
 - ✓ **Medicare statutory definition (1993 CCC-A standards)**
- Audiologist responsible for providing or supervising each beneficiary’s care. Audiologist to initially evaluate patient, prescribe treatment, and review the need for continued services. Requires contractual or other formal agreement that outlines supervision.