



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Health Care Financing Administration

PURCHASED HEALTH SERVICES
Regional Office
Dallas Main Tower Building

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TEXAS DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES
AUSTIN, TEXAS

DALLAS REGIONAL MEDICAL SERVICES LETTER NC. 92-14✓

TO: State Agencies Administering Approved Medical Assistance Plans

SUBJECT: Medicaid Provider Qualifications for Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in School-Based Programs

We are following up on information provided in Dallas Regional Medical Services Letter Nos. 91-44 and 91-47.

In 91-44 we discussed the availability of Title XIX funding for medical and remedial services included in IEPs and IFSPs that are developed under Parts B and H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. That letter indicates that, to receive Medicaid funding, providers of services (including school-based providers) must meet all of Medicaid's regulatory requirements for provider qualifications.

In 91-47 we reiterated the Medicaid regulatory requirements for provider qualifications for speech pathologists and audiologists and indicated that these requirements must be applied as well to school-based providers.

HCFA's regulations on speech pathology and audiology are quite specific. There is little leeway in the interpretation of the regulations. Under current regulations, State licensure (or certification by the State Department of Education) cannot substitute for a certificate from the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA).

However, the current regulations indicate that equivalent courses taken in a State-certified school, along with equivalent work experience, can substitute for the ASHA certificate. If school-based, or State-licensed, providers who are not ASHA certified wish to enroll with you as Medicaid providers, you will need to determine whether the educational background of the school-based, or State-licensed, speech pathologists and audiologists are "equivalent" as set forth in 42 CFR 440.110(c). We will be glad to work with you in making this determination, or, if you have not already done so, you may want to contact ASHA as it has been very effective in helping States with speech pathologist and audiologist qualifications. According to ASHA, several schools have graduate programs accredited by ASHA.

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As you work with state education agencies to reimburse them for school health and related services and early childhood intervention services, please be very diligent about assuring that the Medicaid regulatory provisions for provider qualifications are met.

If you have any questions, please call your Medicaid State Representative at (214) 767-3693.

Sincerely, -

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "E" at the end.

James L. Reed
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid

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