

## **Reminder: Sign Language Interpreting Services are a Benefit of Texas Medicaid**

Information posted August 20, 2010

Reminder: Sign language interpreting services are a benefit of Texas Medicaid. Sign language interpreting services are available to Medicaid clients who are deaf or hard of hearing or to a parent or guardian of a person receiving Medicaid if the parent or guardian is deaf or hard of hearing. Providers can call 2-1-1 for help with locating a sign language interpreter.

Providers must use procedure code T1013 with modifier U1 for the first hour of service, and modifier UA for each additional 15 minutes of service. When procedure code T1013 is billed with modifier U1, it is limited to once per day, same provider. When procedure code T1013 billed with modifier UA, it is limited to a quantity of 28 per day, same provider.

Physicians in private or group practices with fewer than 15 employees may be reimbursed for this service. The physician will be responsible for arranging and paying for the sign language interpreting services to facilitate the medical services being provided. The physician will then seek reimbursement from Texas Medicaid for providing this service.

Sign language interpreting services must be provided by an interpreter who possesses one of the following certification levels (i.e., levels A through H) issued by either the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) or the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

Certification Levels:

- BEI Level I/li and BEI OC: B (Oral Certificate: Basic)
- BEI Basic and RID NIC (National Interpreter Certificate) Certified
- BEI Level II/Ili, RID CI (Certificate of Interpretation), RID CT (Certificate of Transliteration), RID IC (Interpretation Certificate), and RID TC (Transliteration Certificate)
- BEI Level III/IIIi, BEI OC: C (Oral Certificate: Comprehensive), BEI OC: V (Oral Certificate: Visible), RID CSC (Comprehensive Skills Certificate), RID IC/TC, RID CI/CT, RID RSC (Reverse Skills Certificate), and RID CDI (Certified Deaf Interpreter)
- BEI Advanced and RID NIC Advanced
- BEI IV/IVi, RID MCSC (Master Comprehensive Skills Certificate), and RID SC: L (Specialist Certificate: Legal)
- BEI V/VI
- BEI Master; and RID NIC Master

Interpreting services include the provision of voice-to-sign, sign-to-voice, gestural-to-sign, sign-to-gestural, voice-to-visual, visual-to-voice, sign-to-visual, or visual-to-sign services for communication access provided by a certified interpreter.

The physician who requests interpreting services must maintain documentation that verifies the provision of interpreting services. Documentation of the service must be included in the patient's medical record and must include the name of the sign language

interpreter and the interpreter's certification level. The documentation must be made available if it is requested by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) or its designee.