

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Matt Hatchett
Chairman, Appropriations
243 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Jan Jones
Speaker Pro Tempore
340 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Chuck Efstration
Majority Leader
338 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Jon Burns
Speaker of the House
332 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Request for Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Increase

Dear Chairman Hatchett, Leader Efstration, Speaker Jones, and Speaker Burns:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to support the request of ASHA's Georgia-based members and members of the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association to raise the reimbursement rate for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code 92507 from \$65.64 to \$75.07 to match the 2025 Medicare Atlanta Market rate in both the Department of Community Health (DCH) Children's Intervention Services program and in the Department of Public Health Babies Can't Wait (BCW) program.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 241,000 members, certificate holders, and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists (SLPs); speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. SLPs identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive, and swallowing disorders. ASHA members are communication specialists who work with individuals across the lifespan to maximize functional independence, safety, and the ability to fully participate in their lives. ASHA has almost 6,000 members in Georgia.¹

CPT code 92507 is defined as "treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; individual." It is the most essential code speech-language pathologists use across settings, serving all Georgia Medicaid-enrolled beneficiaries from infants to older adults. As non-exhaustive examples, they can use this code to improve communication for a young child acquiring language for the first time or for an adult who is learning to speak again after a stroke or traumatic brain injury.

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), a non-partisan legislative branch agency that provides policy and data analysis and makes recommendations to the United States Congress, has done a meta-analysis of studies connecting higher provider payment rates with better access to care.^{2,3} Many states—like Alabama, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, and New Mexico—are catching on and evaluating reimbursement rate challenges for early intervention programs that receive a sizeable portion of their funding from Medicaid, like Georgia's BCW program. The results are stark and show deep divides between what current provider payment rates are and what they should be.⁴

Currently, CPT code 92507 is paid at \$65.64 by Georgia Medicaid. This rate increase would move it to \$75.07. Unlike most occupational and physical therapy codes, this is **not** a timed code, so therapists bill only one unit at a time and cannot bill it more than once per day per patient. Previously, CPT code 92507 was paid at \$62.53 from 2007 to 2024 without ANY adjustment until last year when it increased to \$65.64. Thus, only one small rate increase of \$3.11 has been made to this code since 2007—almost 20 years ago—and that was in the FY 2025 budget.

ASHA members sent almost 500 letters to the legislature over the last week requesting an increase for this code. ASHA joins those members in respectfully requesting that you raise the reimbursement rate for CPT code 92507 for Georgia SLPs serving Medicaid beneficiaries.

Please contact Caroline Bergner, ASHA's director of health care policy, Medicaid, at cbergner@asha.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



A. B. Mayfield-Clarke, PhD, CCC-SLP
2025 ASHA President

cc: Lynn McKenzie
Emily Beals
Talmadge James
Sheena Wright

¹ American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2023). *Georgia [Quick Facts]*. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/georgia-state-flyer.pdf>

² Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. (n.d.). *About MACPAC*. <https://www.macpac.gov/about-macpac/>

³ Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. (January 2025.). *Evaluating the Effects of Medicaid Payment Changes on Access to Physician Services*. <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Evaluating-the-Effects-of-Medicaid-Payment-Changes-on-Access-to-Physician-Services.pdf>

⁴ Public Consulting Group. (March 2025). *Pennsylvania Early Intervention System Rate Study*. <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/services/children/documents/2025-03-march-pa-rate-study-report.pdf>