

June 23, 2025

Chris Klomp
Deputy Administrator, Center for Medicare
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Mr. Klomp,

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), ADVION (formerly the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care), the National Association of Rehabilitation Agencies and Providers (NARA), American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA), and the Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation (APTQI) are urgently requesting a meeting with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) staff regarding significant disruptions to speech-language pathology (SLP) services.

We request confirmation that the update to Chapter 15 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, defining a qualified SLP from the 2015 Home Health rule, **does not alter policy or long-standing practice** of Medicare Part B enrollment for SLPs. Our associations are concerned that recently emailed communication from CMS to ASHA, is contrary to current policy which has created widespread confusion in the field. This has caused significant challenges for Medicare beneficiaries in accessing needed speech therapy. Additionally, this interpretation is disrupting currently licensed SLPs completing their clinical fellowship and the pipeline of future SLPs entering a variety of medical settings and across the continuum of care including long-term care, hospitals, private practices, and pediatrics causing detrimental cascading effects in access to care.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue. We request this meeting with you as soon as possible to mitigate the disruption to speech therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries and many others. Please contact Sarah Warren, ASHA's Director for Health Care Policy for Medicare, at 301-296-5696 or swarren@asha.org to schedule the meeting or for additional questions.

Sincerely,
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
ADVION (formerly the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care)
National Association of Rehabilitation Agencies and Providers (NARA)
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation (APTQI)
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA)

CC: Alec Aramanda, Principal Deputy Director, Center for Medicare; Lindsey Baldwin, Director, Division of Practitioner Services; Emily Yoder, Deputy Director, Division of Practitioner Services; Pam West, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Practitioner Services