



November 30, 2023

Re: Public Comment to the Medical Care Advisory Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comment, and thank you for serving on the committee. My name is Shawna Ross. I am a speech-language pathologist and pediatric private practice owner of 17.5 years in Northern Nevada. I also serve as the State Advocate on Reimbursement for Medicaid and Private Insurance for the Nevada Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSHA). I am here to follow up on NSHA's requests to add a reimbursement rate to the following CPT codes for Provider Type 34: 92612 (Flexible fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing/FEES), 92511 (nasopharyngoscopy with endoscope), and 31579 (diagnostic laryngoscopy with stroboscopy). It is our understanding that these codes are in the fee schedule for PT 34 but are reimbursed at \$0 and that physicians can be reimbursed for these codes; however, it is reported in Southern and Northern Nevada that physicians are not completing these procedures which is presenting a barrier to care. We also wish to discuss raising Medicaid reimbursement rates across all covered services for speech-language pathologists in the outpatient setting (PT34) to be commensurate with those of school-based speech-language pathologists (PT60). In the 17.5 years I have owned my practice, I have not experienced a reimbursement rate increase and in fact have weathered multiple decreases. Speech pathologists are required to have the same training and licensing to provide services across practice settings, and it would increase access to care to increase the rates for PT34 to have parity with PT60. These requests were included in a joint letter to Medicaid that was submitted on November 8, 2023 by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and NSHA. We ask that Medicaid include these requests in the budget and with any policy changes needed in the 2025 session. We are happy to provide any additional information and look forward to hearing how we can continue to advocate for these areas. We appreciate the consideration.

Sincerely,

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