

# Speech Therapy Documentation for Referral Coordinators/Office Staff

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## Initial Evaluation

Referral to therapy provider for first time service or referral to new therapy provider.

- Effective September 1, 2019, prior authorization is no longer required for in-network evaluations.

## Initial Treatment

Requests be may approved for up to 6 months at a time.

Hearing screening results required for speech therapy treatment, completed within the last 6 months for patients from birth through 3 years of age, and within the last 12 months for members ages 3 and older in the form of:

- Pure tone audiometry.
- Audiology consult report.
- Otoacoustic emissions (OAE) in screening mode for children.

For children with underlying chronic medical conditions associated with developmental delay (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, etc.), the request for a hearing screening may be waived with Medical Director approval.

If hearing screening results are not provided, there is a 90-day approval process, per Medical Director review.

Order requesting speech therapy treatment, signed and dated by the ordering provider within 60 days of the planned service start date.

Completed Speech Therapy Evaluation Report and Plan of Care, signed and dated by the ordering provider within 60 days of submission for authorization.

Evidence of current Texas Health Steps wellness checkup in the form of:

- Copy of current wellness checkup.
- Signed attestation of current wellness checkup.
- If current wellness checkup information is not provided, there is a 90-day approval process, per Medical Director review.

## Extension of Initial Treatment

Completed prior authorization form.

Completed Initial Speech Therapy Evaluation Report and Plan of Care, signed by the ordering provider.

Speech Therapy Progress Reports, signed by the ordering provider that documents attendance, compliance with home exercise program and objective progress towards short-term goals.

## Re-evaluation

- Included with ongoing treatment request – no additional documentation required.

## Ongoing Treatment

Requests may be approved for up to 6 months at a time.

Completed prior authorization form.

Order requesting speech therapy treatment, signed and dated by the ordering provider within 30 days of the planned service start date.

Completed Speech Therapy Re-Evaluation Report and Plan of Care, signed and dated by the ordering provider within 60 days of submission for authorization.

Evidence of current Texas Health Steps wellness checkup (previously submitted wellness checkup information will be applied if still current).

## Notes:

Speech therapy for chronic conditions is not a benefit for members 21 years of age or older.

Stuttering - Speech therapy is not considered medically necessary for young children with natural disfluency (stuttering). Disfluency is a common condition in young children with onset after age 3 and is usually self-correcting by age six to seven. This is sometimes referred to as normal non-fluency and is not an indication for speech therapy.

Change of provider letter – Required if a provider or member discontinues therapy during an existing pre-authorized period and the member requests services through a new provider.