State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services

JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: December 1, 2015 PPL NO. 15-023

TO: Local Educational Agencies

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF CPT CODE 92506; AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUR NEW REPLACEMENT CPT CODES 92521-92524; AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW AUDIOLOGY CPT CODE 92557

This Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) notifies Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program that current procedural terminology (CPT) code 92506, used to bill LEA initial/triennial, annual, and amended Speech-Language and Audiology Assessments, has been eliminated and replaced with four new, more specific evaluation codes.

Effective July 1, 2016, the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program will eliminate CPT code 92506 (Evaluation of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing), and implement the four new replacement CPT codes for speech-language assessments: 92521, 92522, 92523, and 92524. For dates of service before July 1, 2016, LEAs should continue to bill CPT code 92506 for speech-language and audiology assessment services.

The four new replacement CPT codes reflect smaller components of the original CPT code 92506, and are defined as follows:

- 92521 Evaluation of speech fluency (e.g., stuttering, cluttering)
- 92522* Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria)
- 92523* Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria) **with** evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language)
- 92524 Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance

*Note that CPT code 92522 is a sub-component of CPT code 92523, thus prohibiting LEAs from billing these two codes together for the same student.

Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2016, Speech-Language Assessments will use the new CPT code(s) 92521, 92522, 92523, 92524; LEAs should carefully review the CPT description to ensure they accurately bill for the service provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. In cases where multiple evaluations may be appropriate, documentation should clearly reflect a complete and distinct evaluation for each disorder.

Since the new replacement CPT codes do not cover audiological services, the LEA Program has selected a replacement code for Audiology Assessments. LEAs will use CPT code 92557 to bill for Audiological Assessments provided on or after July 1, 2016.

The LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Provider Manual will be updated to reflect the current rates for these CPT codes.

If you have questions, please contact Rick Record, LEA Program Unit Manager, at (916) 552-9222 or Rick.Record@dhcs.ca.gov

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MICHELLE KRISTOFF

Michelle Kristoff, Chief
Medi-Cal Administrative Claiming Section