

## Supplement to current edition (May 2021) of the Blue Book <sup>SM</sup> for Speech Therapy

Effective immediately, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) has made the following revisions regarding speech therapy in section 9.66.39 on page 9-192 and 9.68.2 on page 9-207 of the Blue Book <sup>SM</sup>.

### 9.66.39

#### Speech therapy

- Covered speech therapy services should be billed using UB-04 Revenue Code 044X.
- The itemization must be submitted on the claim.
- Speech therapy is covered when services are directed toward treatment of a specific disease, injury or congenital anomaly and services are expected to result in a significant and measurable improvement in functional capabilities within a reasonable and defined period of time.
- To be considered eligible for coverage, speech therapy services must be delivered by a qualified provider of speech therapy services. A qualified provider is one who is licensed where required and is performing within the scope of the license.

### 9.68.2

Speech therapy - Speech therapy is treatment for the correction of speech impairment resulting from disease, surgery, injury, or congenital anomaly. Speech therapy is covered when services are directed toward treatment of a specific disease, injury or congenital anomaly and services are expected to result in a significant and measurable improvement in functional capabilities within a reasonable and defined period of time.

To be considered eligible for coverage, these services must be delivered by a qualified provider. A qualified provider is one who is licensed where required and is performing within the scope of the license. Covered speech therapy services should be billed using UB-04 Revenue Code 044x.

Consultations / evaluations - Consultations / evaluations for physical therapy, inhalation therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy are covered only if they are actually for tests and measurements with appropriate reports. However, if the evaluation is just a consultation, it is not covered.

For more information, please refer to the [Corporate Medical Policy for Rehabilitative Therapies \(including speech therapy\)](#).