



Idaho Council *for the* Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Idaho Medicaid Interpreter Reimbursement: Frequently Asked Questions

Regardless of reimbursement through Medicaid, providers are required by law to provide interpretive services at the request of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing participant or their companion to ensure meaningful access and effective communication in accordance with Title III of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*; and Section 1557 of the *Affordable Care Act*.

How do I bill Medicaid when there are multiple interpreters?

- Many situations can require the use of multiple interpreters to ensure effective access and occupational safety. Some contributing factors include the duration and intensity of an appointment, in addition to the linguistic needs present.
- When there are multiple interpreters, follow appropriate documentation process as described in the Idaho Medicaid Provider Handbook 9.10.1.
- Bill for the total number of interpreting service minutes, in 15-minute increments, for all interpreters.
 - Example: A 90-minute appointment requires two interpreters, each providing 90 minutes of service. Bill Medicaid for 180 minutes of service rendered.

Is my sign language interpreter a “Qualified Medicaid Provider”?

- Interpreters are not a category of “Qualified Medicaid Providers”. The only documentation that the interpreter needs to supply is limited to their name, title, and signature. Only the patient and the Medicaid provider rendering services need to hold Medicaid documentation.
- You may ask to see interpreters’ license to practice in the State of Idaho for verification of their credentials to interpret.

The interpreter submitted an invoice with a flat fee or a 2-hour minimum. Don’t they have to follow Medicaid guidelines to bill in 15-minute increments?

- Interpreters’ billing practices usually do not align with Medicaid reimbursement guidelines. Your office is responsible for covering any remaining costs associated with hiring interpreters.
- Medicaid may be billed for interpreting services rendered in conjunction with a Medicaid billable service, in 15-minute increments. Interpreters will bill for their total time according to their terms of service, which will include time outside of provider minutes.
- In addition to Medicaid reimbursement, there are tax benefits that defray the cost of providing accommodations.

Can a family member interpret at the participant’s request in accordance with 9.10. of the Medicaid Providers’ Handbook?

- A participant may waive their right to an interpreter (follow your organizational protocol) however **they may NOT have an unlicensed friend or family member render sign language interpreting services in accordance with IC§54-29**, “Interpreters and translators must meet state and professional licensure requirements and be at least eighteen years of age,” (9.10.3).

Can interpreters render services for telehealth appointments?

- Yes, interpreters can provide HIPAA-compliant interpretation via telehealth. Medicaid will reimburse for these services at the standard rate. See Idaho Medicaid Provider Handbook 9.12.
- Regardless of the place of residence for an interpreter providing virtual services, they must be licensed to interpret in the state of Idaho in accordance with IC§54-29.

Will Medicaid reimburse interpretive service if the patient is not who requires an interpreter?

- If the participant is a child under the age of 18 years and is receiving a Medicaid reimbursed service, interpretive services are allowed for communicating with the child’s parent/guardian.
- If the participant is not under the age of 18 or under guardianship, but a companion requires interpretive services, you cannot bill Medicaid. However, you must still provide interpretive services to maintain compliance with accessibility laws.

Since it is in the IEP, can classroom interpreting services be billed to Medicaid?

- No. Educational Services are not reimbursable: Services provided in buildings, rooms, or areas designated or used as a school or an education setting, which are provided during the specific hours and time periods in which the education instruction takes place in the school day, and period of time for these students, which are included in the individual educational plan (IEP) for the student.
- View the [Idaho Medicaid Guidance Handbook for Educators](#), page 77 for information on interpretive services reimbursement for students.

Can I receive reimbursement through Medicaid for learning American Sign Language (ASL) or providing direct service in ASL?

- No. Reimbursement is specific to interpretive services rendered by non-institutional providers.

What procedure code do I use to bill for interpretive services?

- **T1013-CG – Sign Language Interpretive Services**
- Interpretive services are reimbursed in 15-minute increments.

Direct additional questions regarding the provision of appropriate access for Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals to the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Direct any questions regarding Medicaid to the Department of Health and Welfare Medicaid Division.

Resources

See section 9.10. on Interpretive Services beginning on page 129.

<https://www.idmedicaid.com/General%20Information/General%20Information%20and%20Requirements%20for%20Providers.pdf>

See page 4 for additional information on providing Sign Language Interpretive Services.

<https://www.idmedicaid.com/MedicAide%20Newsletters/September%202012%20MedicAide.pdf>

<https://www.idmedicaid.com/MedicAide%20Newsletters/January%202016%20MedicAide.pdf>

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Resources for Schools:

<https://idahotc.com/Portals/0/Topics/School-Based%20Medicaid/School-Based%20Medicaid/Medicaid%20Guidance%20Documents/2017%20Medicaid%20Guidance%20Handbook.pdf?ver=2017-08-29-131634-033>

[Idaho Training Clearinghouse > Topics > N-Z > School-Based Medicaid \(idahotc.com\)](#)