Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers in Delaware

June 9, 2025

Update: Delaware Speech Therapy Mandate

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the Delaware Speech Therapy Mandate (HS 2 for HB273 with SA 1) (the "Mandate") requires insurers to provide coverage for any speech therapy or services required to treat a child diagnosed with any of the following speech-language disorders classified in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10):

- Childhood onset fluency disorder
- Developmental disorder of speech and language unspecified
- Expressive language disorder
- Mixed receptive-expressive language disorder
- Phonological disorder
- Receptive language disorder
- Social pragmatic communication disorder

The Mandate applies to Delaware individual, small and large group fully insured policies issued or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2025.

In response to the Mandate, Highmark Delaware is in the process of implementing systematic changes. Currently, all speech therapy claims impacted by the Mandate are being identified on a monthly basis and manually readjusted in accordance with the Mandate.

Important: Providers should continue to follow their current billing procedures.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this time of transition.

Updates regarding the Delaware Speech Therapy Mandate will be posted on the <u>Provider Resource</u> <u>Center</u>. Stay up to date on the latest news from Highmark by <u>joining our mailing list</u>.

The following entities, which serve the noted regions, are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association: Delaware: Highmark BCBSD Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

All references to "Highmark" in this document are references to the Highmark company that is providing the member's health benefits or health benefit administration and/or to one or more of its affiliated Blue companies.

