**June 16, 2025**

**News for State Licensing Boards | View in Browser**

**The Dispatch**

**News & Resources for State Licensing Boards**

**Medicare Revised Definition of Speech-Language Pathologist**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently revised the definition of a qualified speech-language pathologist (SLP) within Chapter 15 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. This change specifically impacts Medicare Part B (outpatient) services and aims to standardize SLP qualifications across all Part B practice settings, aligning with federal law.

ASHA received follow-up communication from CMS that clarified the updated Medicare definition of a qualified provider does not recognize provisionally licensed SLPs, including clinical fellows (CFs), for billing. This means that individuals practicing under a provisional license, even if permitted by state law, are now disqualified from receiving Medicare reimbursement for their services. This change may raise questions for employers regarding the hiring and supervision of provisionally licensed SLPs who provide services to Medicare beneficiaries.

ASHA is actively working to resolve this issue and advocates for appropriate recognition of provisionally licensed SLPs within Medicare policy. We emphasize the continued importance of maintaining the provision within state laws for fully trained SLPs who are in the process of completing their mentored clinical experience (often called a clinical fellowship), particularly in light of the ongoing implementation and requirements of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

We encourage state boards to disseminate this information to their licensees and stakeholders. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available regarding ASHA's advocacy and any subsequent changes to Medicare policy.

For more details, please refer to this news piece and our FAQ resource.

**ASLP-IC Updates**

The ASLP-IC has grown to 36 states and one territory with the recent adoption of legislation in Arizona and Nevada. The Compact Commission continues to work with Inspiring Apps to finalize the necessary data system (called CompactConnect) to receive applications, provide interstate data communications, and issue privileges to practice. The Commission anticipates CompactConnect will launch on September 30, 2025 and begin issuing privileges to practice in states that have onboarded at that time. If you have passed the compact legislation and have not yet onboarded, please reach out to ASLP-IC Executive Director Dr. Lesley Edwards-Gaither at legaither@aslpcompact.com.

The Compact Commission is planning two upcoming full Commission meetings. A virtual special commission meeting on June 30 at 4:00 PM ET will adopt the 2025-2026 budget as well as the revised criminal background check rule. The hybrid annual business meeting is scheduled for September 20. Keep an eye out for more information on the agenda.

Connect with ASHA, email states@asha.org.

Connect with states, see ASHA’s State-By-State Requirements and Contact Information.

For changes in Board address or contact information, email to Susan Adams.

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