

3.40 STANDARDS FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDER CENTERS**3.40.1 TYPE A COMMUNICATION DISORDER CENTER****A. Definition**

A Type A Communication Disorder Center is a health care provider office or facility capable of providing audiological evaluation and recommendations, hearing aid evaluation and recommendations, and hearing aid orientation for children five years of age and older.

B. General Requirements and Procedures for Approval

1. The Type A Communication Disorder Center shall be located at a health care provider office or facility. Audiologic services shall be performed by a CCS-paneled audiologist.
2. The health care provider or facility shall be enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider, as shall all audiologists delivering services to CCS-eligible children.
3. A provider wishing to participate in the California Children's Services Program as a Type A Communication Disorder Center shall submit an application to:

California Department of Health Services
Children's Medical Services Branch/Hearing & Audiology Services Unit
MS 8103
PO Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

4. A provider whose application meets the requirements identified in these standards, by a review of the application, a site visit, or both, shall be approved as a Type A Communication Disorder Center.
5. Changes in professional staff whose qualifications are incorporated into any portion of these standards shall be reported to the CCS program at the above address whenever they occur. Updates of all professional and clinical staff shall be submitted in writing to CCS on an annual basis.
6. Center approval shall be subject to re-evaluation at intervals defined by the State CCS program.
7. Centers shall be in compliance with communication and accessibility standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

8. Centers shall be responsible for having translation services available for non-English speaking families.

C. Requirements for Participation

1. Staff

- a. A CCS paneled audiologist shall be physically present in the Communication Disorder Center a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- b. A CCS paneled audiologist shall be in the Center when any audiologic service is provided to CCS-eligible children.
- c. In compliance with California licensure standards, non-licensed audiologists, during their Required Professional Experience, may provide audiologic services to CCS-eligible children under the supervision of a CCS paneled audiologist.
- d. If the audiologist utilizes a test assistant, the test assistant shall work under the direct supervision of the CCS paneled audiologist. The CCS paneled audiologist shall be in the same room or visually observing the test assistant when the assistant is providing services to a CCS-eligible child.

2. Facility and Equipment

- a. There shall be a waiting room appropriately furnished for children.
- b. There shall be at least one sound-treated examination room, with a minimum area of 30 square feet, conforming to the requirements set forth in current ANSI standards.
- c. The examination room(s) shall be arranged so that the speakers are able to be placed at least one meter from the listener. Special efforts shall be made to minimize reflecting surfaces.
- d. The control room(s) shall be treated to minimize reverberation and interference from extraneous noise in order to obtain reliable and valid measurements.
- e. Equipment capable of performing all procedures as referred to in current peer-reviewed audiologic guidelines, standards, or in preferred practice patterns published by professional audiological associations for all children age

five years and older shall be available and used by the Center's audiologist(s).

- f. Equipment shall be calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation and log shall be kept documenting the dates of calibration, repair or replacement of parts. The electroacoustic equipment and ambient noise shall meet current ANSI and manufacturer's specifications.
- g. Biologic checks of the equipment (e.g., identifying signs of wear, listening checks by the operator for hearing levels, cross talk, signal distortion, noise levels, etc.) shall be made and recorded daily or, if less than daily, each time equipment is used.

3. Services

- a. The facility shall comply with current peer-reviewed audiologic guidelines, standards, or preferred practice patterns published by professional audiological associations and provide comprehensive audiologic and hearing aid assessments for children age five years and older.
- b. The CCS paneled audiologist shall provide counseling, including the range of communication and educational options, and follow-up for children age five years and older.
- c. An audiology test assistant, if utilized, may assist the CCS paneled audiologist to perform the functions outlined below.
 - (1) Behavioral management, including
 - (a) Assisting the child to cooperate in the testing environment.
 - (b) Conditioning the child to respond appropriately during play and orientation to audiological test techniques.
 - (2) Reassure the child to allay fear of the testing and evaluation process.
 - (3) Assist the child that may require careful observation and/or assistance in responding to acoustic stimuli.

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- (4) Supervise the care of the child during the parent(s) interview and counseling session, before and after the evaluation.

- d. The audiologist shall inform all parents, in writing, of the results of any tests performed; interpret the results and discuss the need for subsequent evaluation and follow-up, if necessary.

- e. CCS paneled audiologists from Type A Communication Disorder Centers shall only perform services on CCS-eligible children who need sedating medication when those services are provided in a medical facility with medical professionals trained in pediatric resuscitation and advanced life support. In these circumstances the patient shall be monitored in accordance with the medical facility's written protocols.

- f. If a Center chooses to dispense hearing aids, the aids shall only be dispensed by personnel licensed by the State of California as a hearing aid dispenser. It shall provide for training in the use and care of the aid and mold, in addition to providing parts, loaner hearing aids, mold adjustments, insurance policies and follow-up care.

- 4. Care Coordination/Referral
 - a. The Center shall maintain medical records on each child served documenting at least the following:
 - (1) Results of all assessments and services performed by the Center
 - (2) Chronic medical conditions
 - (3) Current medications
 - (4) Primary care provider
 - (5) Otolaryngology (ENT) provider and recommendations from the provider
 - (6) Educational placement information
 - (7) Status of communication development, including current speech-language evaluation and services being received.

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- b. At the time of initial diagnosis of hearing loss, the Center shall notify at least the following of the results of the evaluation:
 - (1) The local CCS program that authorized the diagnostic evaluation.
 - (2) Primary care provider.
- c. The Center shall refer children who are newly diagnosed with hearing loss to:
 - (1) The Local Education Agency
 - (2) The local CCS program, when applicable.
 - (3) Other support services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.
- d. The Center shall send summary reports on active clients at least annually to the following, when applicable:
 - (1) Local CCS program
 - (2) Primary care provider
 - (3) ENT provider
 - (4) Other specialty providers
 - (5) School personnel
 - (6) Regional Center
 - (7) Speech-language pathologist
 - (8) Parent(s) or guardian

5. Reporting Requirements

Each Type A Communication Disorder Center shall submit to the local CCS program summary reports at least annually on the progress of children authorized for care by the CCS program.

6. Billing

- a. A Type A Communication Disorder Center shall submit claims for reimbursement of CCS authorized services in a format specified by the CCS program.

- g. Payment for hearing aids shall include the provision of up to six post-delivery visits, training in the use and care of the aid, and adjustments of the aid and mold during 30 days after delivery of the aid to the child.

7. Other Services

A Type A Communication Disorder Center that wishes to perform Outpatient Infant Hearing Screening services shall submit an application for certification in accordance with the standards of Chapter 3.42.2 of this Manual.