



Extended Health Benefits

Billing for Caregiver Coaching and Training

Question: I am an SLP working in private practice, providing assessment and treatment for early language development. Naturally, this involves me working directly with children, as well as coaching and training their caregivers on how best to support language development at home. Some of the families pay for services using their extended health insurance, and some caregivers have asked if I can invoice for services under their name (instead of their child's) since they are the ones undergoing the coaching and training. Is this allowed?

The answer depends on the caregiver's insurance provider. Although caregiver training and home programming are considered intervention or treatment as per ACSLPA's standards of practice, insurance providers vary in whether they consider consultation, coaching, or training to be applicable treatments that can be billed under the attending caregiver's name; and whether they require that invoices be billed under the client's (i.e., the child's) name, and not the caregiver who is undergoing the coaching and training.

In this situation, the caregivers should be advised to check with their individual insurance provider to see if caregiver training can be billed under their names (rather than their child's). Confirmation of insurer policy on this matter should be documented in the client's file.

If billing under both the caregiver's and child's name is possible, then consistent with ACSLPA's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, the time devoted to direct treatment with the child versus the time spent in caregiver training is to be accurately reflected in one's financial records (i.e., invoices).

