

MEDICAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE PRACTICE OF SLPS

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ISSUES IN THE MEDICAL SETTING FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

- ◉Funding
- ◉Layoffs
- ◉Competencies
- ◉Non-reimbursable services
- ◉Service Quality
- ◉Endoscopy bill

FUNDING

- Overall decrease in all funding sources -
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid/Public Aid
 - Private Insurance
 - Early intervention

LAYOFFS

- ◉ Outside consultants recommend productivity levels
- ◉ All disciplines are expected to meet productivity levels
- ◉ Layoffs occur in all disciplines & support staff when productivity levels are not met
- ◉ Staffing shortages occur as census does not stay constant
- ◉ Domino effect occurs as there are fewer SLP's for direct service and fewer support staff for adjunct service, e.g., aides

COMPETENCIES

- Having CCC's does not equate with competency in all medical areas
- Staffing shortages cause staff to be shifted to facilities/areas in which competency is not completed, e.g., therapists are pushed to provide service in an area of less experience

NON-REIMBURSABLE SERVICES

- ◉ Services provided to patients and/or families that are necessary for quality care but are not re-imburseable
- ◉ Example: High Risk Follow Up NICU Clinic which provides continued care & support for families
- ◉ These services are being eliminated
 - Non reimbursable = not productive

SERVICE QUALITY

- ◉ Decrease in funding
- ◉ Increase in layoffs
- ◉ Problems with competencies
- ◉ Lack of program development
- ◉ Equal = decreased service quality
 - And decreased level of job satisfaction by SLP's

ENDOSCOPY BILL

- Update by Celeste Kobulnicky

