

June 23, 2025

Re: New Code/Modifier Combinations for Speech-Language Pathologists for Evaluation/Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Speech-Language Pathology Providers,

Empower Healthcare Solutions will be implementing the following new procedure code/modifier combinations, **effective July 1, 2025**, for speech-language pathologists to bill when conducting an evaluation to determine a child's formal Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. These services will not require a Prior Authorization.

State Specific Description	Procedure Code	Modifier	Effective Date	Place of Service	Age	Max Fee
Comprehensive Autism Evaluation, First Hour	96112	U6	7/1/2025	11, 12, 52, 56, 99	18 months – 20 years	\$108.00
Comprehensive Autism Evaluation, Additional 30 minutes	96113	U6	7/1/2025	11, 12, 52, 56, 99	18 months – 20 years	\$54.00

The new procedure code/modifier combinations were implemented by Arkansas Medicaid under the Diagnostic and Evaluation Services Medicaid manual for speech-language pathologists. The current procedure codes available to speech-language pathologists through the Arkansas Medicaid Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program (92521-92524) are not appropriate for performing the separate and distinct evaluation required to diagnose ASD.

Arkansas Code Annotated 20-77-124 lists speech-language pathologists as one of the three types of "qualified professionals" permitted to diagnose a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder for purposes of Arkansas Medicaid. An Arkansas Medicaid enrolled speech-language pathologist can use these codes to bill Medicaid for an ASD evaluation performed on or after July 1, 2025.

For questions, please contact Empower Provider Relations <u>empowerhealthcaresolutionspr@empowerarkansas.com</u>.

Thank you,

Empower Healthcare Solutions