

Au.D. Externs and Medicare Requirements: 05/08/2007

An inquiry from a Maryland audiologist was received regarding 4th year externships for Au.D. students. In Maryland there is no provisional licensure. The audiologist has concerns regarding reimbursement, supervision and other Medicare requirements and would like additional information.

STATE:	RESPONSE:
Florida	<p>As I am sure know, the requirements to be a Medicare provider includes both a graduate degree and a license. Anyone who doesn't have one or the other is a student and Medicare has a special guideline. The licensed professional who is responsible for supervising that student must be in the room with the student and actively participating in that patient's care. Also, for Medicare, the supervising professional must not be attending to any other patient at the same time the student is attending to his/her patient.</p> <p>Chapter 5 of the Medicare reimbursement manual lists this requirement for "therapy" students (audiology is also mentioned frequently in this chapter). An official at Medicare affirmed that this standard applied to audiology students in the same manner that the chapter applies this to "therapy" students.</p> <p>Robert C. Fifer, Ph.D.</p>
Minnesota	<p>In MN we are encountering insurance plans that will ONLY pay for audiologic testing performed (billed, supervised, whatever) by a physician and specifically state that they will not cover testing performed by audiologists!</p> <p>Shirley Fors, Au.D. Past President, Minnesota Academy of Audiology</p>