

Fast ForWord[®] PROVIDER

Have you been getting questions from clients about how medical insurance works in conjunction with private providers offering Fast ForWord, or how they can work with you, the school and with Fast ForWord? Here are a few answers to commonly asked questions.

Schools, Fast ForWord and Private Providers

It used to be common practice for private providers to contract directly with schools for afterschool programs, but that's not necessarily the case anymore. All private providers work closely with schools (unless children are homeschooled or not receiving services through the school) because they have to participate in IEP meetings and coordinate their services with those provided through the school.

Why do parents go to private providers vs. school services?

1. They want more control over the therapy process.
2. They want more intensive therapy or higher quality therapy than they feel they can get through the school district.
3. They don't want the child's challenges to be known to the school.
4. They don't want to have the child pulled out from regular classroom activities.
5. They are in a private school that does not provide therapy and therefore don't have a trusting relationship with the public school.

There will be cases where a clinician recommends Fast ForWord and in some cases they may encourage the parent to try to get it through the school because it is free that way.

How can parents request Fast ForWord through their school?

Parents can ask for a due processes hearing to get Fast ForWord for their child. A due process hearing is an adversarial process and usually does not result in the best implementations. Often the school does not have anyone on staff that is properly trained on how to administer the program, so the child sits in a lab and works independently without much guidance.

Can parents request the school to pay for a provider to administer Fast ForWord?

A parent may request that their provider administer the program but we are not aware of any schools that currently do this. Private providers used to take a pretty active role with schools to train or help the school-based personnel with the implementation but this doesn't happen anymore due to liability issues of having a non-school employee working with a child on school property. The school is not going to pay for a product that a child uses elsewhere.

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Medical Insurance and Fast ForWord

How does medical insurance work with Speech-Language Pathologists offering Fast ForWord?

Is Fast ForWord covered?

Not usually. The services that are provided by SLPs may be covered, but the cost of the program is not normally covered.

Would Fast ForWord have to be considered supplemental to a diagnosed therapy?

Insurance coverage has changed recently with the new ICD-10 and new reimbursement codes. There is no supplemental coverage – only individual and group speech-language therapy and evaluation charges would be covered. Use this [Insurance Form Letter](#) to request reimbursement.

What if I'm running Fast ForWord off-site for a client?

Currently, most clients use Fast ForWord at home with a therapist monitoring off-site. In this case, the therapist can charge for direct contact time with the client, which can include regular therapy sessions (i.e., practice with a difficult exercise) or follow telepractice guidelines.

How can I learn more about telepractice guidelines?

For more information on telepractice guidelines, you can contact ASHA or take an ASHA CEU course on telepractice, coding and billing.

Can parents use a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) to pay for Fast ForWord?

This will depend on the terms of their FSA. You can advise parents to get a prescription from their doctor for Fast ForWord and to contact their FSA directly for more information.