



TEXAS ACADEMY  
of AUDIOLOGY

JULY 2022

## WHAT'S NEW?

TAA TALKS:  
AUDIOLOGY  
ASSISTANTS

TEXAS MEDICAID  
VEMP CODING

YOUR GRASS  
ROOTS TO DO  
LIST

ARE YOU READY  
TO GOLF WITH  
US?

WHO ARE THE  
FUTURE  
LEADERS OF  
AUDIOLOGY?

TELEHEALTH  
TOPICS IN TEXAS

## ***A Word from your TAA President***

Kelli House, M.A., TAA President

The countdown is on. As I type, we are less than 140 days from reuniting in Frisco for the best state academy conference in the country. I may be a little biased...

We are presented this year with increasingly challenging issues such as interstate compacts, The No Surprises Act, third party administrators, and the list goes on. We must present a united front to ensure our best interests are at the forefront of decisions being made on our behalf. Traditionally, our annual conference is a time to gather and learn. This year I ask we take it a step further and use the opportunity to collaborate with fellow colleagues in order to leverage our numbers to benefit the communities we serve.

There are over 1600 licensed Audiologists in our great State of Texas; we have the numbers to effect change. However, less than 25% of licensed Audiologists are members of the Texas Academy of Audiology. Call to action: Let's do our part to encourage at least ONE colleague that is not yet a member to join today. Better yet, get them to commit to attend our annual conference. There is no place for apathy in our profession. Apathy from the majority leads to decisions made FOR us rather than WITH us.



# 2022 TOTALLY TAA 80'S EDITION

by Jennifer Bobo, AuD, Conference Chair and  
Sponsor Liaison

REGISTER  
NOW!!

**ACTUALLY.... REGISTER TODAY TO  
GET THE EARY BIRD SPECIAL!!**

**November 3-5th, 2022**

**Embassy Suites Convention Center  
Frisco, TX**

**RENEW OR JOIN AS A TAA MEMBER  
TO SAVE MONEY AND HELP US  
HAVE A BIGGER VOICE IN AUSTIN!!!**

**~~Mark Your Calendars~~ to Come See Your  
Favorite Audiology Stars!**

Two Days of AMAZING CONTENT in 3 areas  
from multiple speakers:

**Practice Management:** Dr. Dave Fabry will be  
“gagging us with a spoon” with the changing  
landscape in Audiology and The Way Forward  
for Audiology: Lessons learned from Optometry  
and Dentistry: Tier 1 .....WHAM! Dr. Brian Taylor  
will be sharing Customization as Difference  
Maker: What We Can Learn from Four Late  
Great Audiologists!

**Diagnostic/Clinical Audiology:** Dr. Bob DiSogra  
will be “Taking a Chill Pill” when he shares with  
us the audiological management of COVID-19  
survivors and Brain Fog!

**Pediatric/Educational Audiology:** Dr. Karen  
Munoz won't be “Talking to the Hand” when  
she wows us with her Pediatric Hearing Aid  
Management knowledge: Parent Education  
and support in part 1 and Parent Internal  
Barriers!

**TWO Hours of Ethics Required for Texas  
License Renewal:** Dr. Laura Parnell and Dr.  
Andrea Gohmert will be “Stoked” when they  
share Ethical Conundrums in Audiology:  
Coding, Correspondence and Care!

**Other topics include:** TikTok and Social Media  
to Grow Your Practice....APD: Adult vs.  
Child....Clinical Use of Computerized  
Posturagraphy... and more!

Check out the schedule below and go to  
[www.texasaudiology.org](http://www.texasaudiology.org) to get full details and  
ready for the best conference yet!

**Scott Haug Foundation Annual Golf  
Tournament** on Thursday, November 3rd from  
9am-12pm

**Pre-Conference Courses** from Our Annual  
Sponsors on Thursday, November 3rd from 1pm-  
3pm and/or 3pm-5pm (you will have two  
different courses to choose from back-to-back  
so plan to come early and support YOUR  
sponsors!

**Welcome Reception** Honoring Lifetime  
Members/Past Presidents with Sponsors  
Thursday, November 3rd from 5pm-7pm

**Keynote Speaker** “Oh Snap” we have the one  
and only Matt Hay, an Auditory Brainstem  
Implant (ABI) recipient.  
Sponsored by Official TAA Sponsor: Cochlear,  
Inc.

Back by Popular Demand: **Hot Topics** (OTC,  
TPAs, Medicaid...) with TAA Business Meeting  
Immediately following so stay and have your  
voice heard!

**Annual Reception** with Silent Auction on  
Friday, November 4th immediately following  
last session.... please stay and support YOUR  
sponsors!

**TAA/Scott Haug Foundation Annual  
Dinner/Dance/Costume Contest**  
Friday, November 4th and I am hoping that  
Cyndi Lauper and Madonna make an  
appearance!

# Texas Academy of Audiology

Friday, November 4, 2022 – Schedule (0.55 CEUs Available)

7:30am – 8:00am		Registration with Coffee/Tea	CEUs
8:00am – 8:20am		"State of the State Address" - Welcome & Opening Remarks 2022 TAA President: Kelli House, AuD	
8:20am – 8:30am		Introduction of Scott Haug Keynote Speaker J. T. Beckman, AuD	
8:30am – 9:30am		Scott Haug Foundation Memorial Keynote Address "Soundtrack of Silence" Matt Hay	0.10
9:30am-10:00am	I	Student Poster Session Moderator Stephanie Fowler, AuD	0.05
10:00am – 10:30am		BREAK with Sponsors	
10:30am – 12:00pm	I	"Rethink Hearing" <b>TIER 1</b> Dave Fabry, PhD	0.15
	II	"The New Model of Cochlear Implant Care: We can all do it and do it well!" Jedidiah Grisel, MD	0.15
	III	"Pediatric Hearing Aid Management: Parent Education and Support" <b>TIER 1</b> Karen Munoz, EdD	0.15
12:00pm – 1:00pm		Lunch Buffet with Sponsors Grab some lunch and then join us for Legislative Issues	
1:00pm – 2:00pm	I	"Legislative Update: 2022" Legislative Panel moderated by Alex Morris, AuD	0.10
2:00pm – 2:30pm		TAA Business Meeting	
2:30pm – 3:00pm		BREAK with Sponsors	
3:00pm – 4:30pm	I	"The Way Forward for Audiology: Lessons Learned from Optometry and Dentistry" <b>TIER 1</b> Dave Fabry, PhD	0.15
	II	"Clinical Use of Computerized Posturagraphy" <b>TIER 1</b> Lillian Felipe, PhD	0.15
	III	"Pediatric Hearing Aid Management: Parent Internal Barriers" <b>TIER 1</b> Karen Munoz, EdD	0.15
4:30pm – 6:30pm		BREAK with Sponsors / Silent Auction <b>21<sup>st</sup> Annual Reception</b> Light appetizers provided with Cash Bar	
6:30pm-7:00pm		CHANGE INTO COSTUME FOR DINNER DANCE	

7:00pm–10:00pm - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scott Haug Foundation/Texas Academy of Audiology Bash

***"Totally TAA....80's Edition"***

# Texas Academy of Audiology

Saturday, November 5, 2022 – Schedule (0.6 CEUs Available)

7:30am – 8:00am		Registration – Sponsors Open with Coffee/Tea	CEUs
8:00am – 9:30am	I	“Customization as Difference Maker: What We Can Learn from Four Late Great Audiologists” Brian Taylor, AuD	0.15
	II	“Audiological Management of the COVID-19 Survivors” <b>TIER 1</b> Robert M. Disogra, AuD	0.15
	III	“Auditory Processing Disorders: Children vs. Adults” Tori Gustafson, AuD and Elizabeth Leigh Green, AuD	0.15
9:30am – 10:00am		BREAK with Sponsors with Coffee/Tea	
10:00am – 11:30am	I	“TikTok for Professionals” Crystal Bleu Dvorak, AuD	0.15
	II	“Behaviors Associated with Mild Cognitive Impairment/Brain Fog” <b>TIER 1</b> Robert M. Disogra, AuD	0.15
	III	“Barriers to EMDR Follow Up: COVID and Beyond” Stephanie Williams and Andrea Warner-Czyz	0.15
11:30am – 12:00pm		BREAK with Sponsors – Grab Lunch	
12:00pm – 1:00pm		“Amplification Tech Talk Round Table” Lunch with Platinum Sponsors Moderator: Steve Madix, PhD	0.10
1:00pm - 3:00pm		“Ethical Conundrums in Audiology: Coding, Correspondence and Care” <b>“ETHICS”</b> Laura Parnell and Andrea Gohment	0.20

*Get those calendars marked for the coming years*

**2023 in San Marcos – October 12-14, 2023**

Embassy Suites San Marcos – Hotel, Spa and Conference Center  
1001 E. McCarty Ln - San Marcos, TX 78666

**2024 in Houston – October 17-19, 2024**

Marriott Houston South Hobby Airport  
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# Totally TAA 2022- Registration Fees

		Early Bird Registration By Sept 19th	Regular Registration Sept 11 – Oct 24th	On Site Registration
<b>TAA Member</b>	<b>1 Day Only</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
	<b>Both Days</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
Non-Member	1 Day Only	\$335.00	\$360.00	\$385.00
	Both Days	\$510.00	\$560.00	\$610.00
TAA Student Member	1 or 2 Days	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$175.00
Non-Member Student	1 or 2 Days	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$225.00

Please see additional registration types and information about refund eligibility on the Texas Academy of Audiology Website.

**PLEASE MAKE  
PLANS NOW TO  
ATTEND - EARLY  
BIRD DEADLINE  
WILL BE  
SEPTEMBER 19,  
2022**



by Shawna Jackson, Au.D., TAA Past-President

Did you miss our first TAA Talks? Don't worry, as a TAA member, you can access some of our notes and video from the session to allow you to still catch what you missed! TAA Talks are a member-only resource that allows for a short lunch-break topic presentation as well as a question-and-answer session and are hosted by our own members through Microsoft Teams. The purpose is to facilitate further understanding on common TAA answered questions and are not intended for CEU approval but rather, just a networking and short informational session. The first session was held in April to discuss the ins and outs of Audiology Assistants.



Below are just some of the points we talked about...

- 1) Texas has a licensure option for Audiology Assistant and it can be completed under the supervision of a licensed audiologist with approval from TDLR. According to the licensure law, practicing as an Audiology Assistant without a license is prohibited.
- 2) Licensed audiology assistants' scope of practice is determined based on training provided by the licensure holder and is defined under a supervision agreement with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The supervision agreement should be updated with any additional supervisors or change in responsibilities. Certain areas are directly prohibited, including (but not limited to) ear impression taking, changing the programming of a device, and cerumen management.

- 3) The supervisor and AuD Assistant are expected to keep supervision logs in case of audit by TDLR.
- 4) Audiology assistants are expected to obtain CEU hours including ethics to renew licensure.
- 5) Audiology assistants are eligible for membership as an Associate member through TAA.

Our second session was held June 16th with reimbursement topics and covered National Determination guidelines. Don't miss our next 30-minute session

**August 25th at 12:15 PM**  
on Microsoft Teams discussing Audiology state licensing compacts.

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# ***Future Leaders of Audiology Student Conference (FLASC)***

*by Jennifer Bobo, AuD,  
Conference Chair and Sponsor Liaison*

The 2022 Future Leaders of Audiology Student Conference (FLASC) was held on June 2nd through 4th in Fort Worth and hosted Audiology doctoral students from LA and TX. The FLASC is a joint effort by LAA and TAA to develop future generations of state and national leaders for the profession and is generously supported by our industry partners. Students were presented with information about the history of audiology, key issues facing our profession, the legislative process of protecting our profession, and what the preferred future of Audiology might look like.



The FLASC faculty this year included audiologists Steve Madix (LAA), Courtney Stewart (LAA), Jennifer Bobo (TAA), Angela Shoup (AAA), Shawna Jackson (TAA), Carmen Landry (TAA) and TAA lobbyist Brad Shields.

This year's participants from UT Dallas were Amanda Duren, Jessica Sickels, Sarah Crow, Kitrie Howell, Emma Freeman; from UT Austin was Erica McVey; from UNT were Meg Musselman, Molly Lohrey, Audrey Taylor, Marissa Garcia, Danielle Johnson; from Lamar were Sierra Hunnicutt, Ariana Garza; from LSU was Emily Fauchaux, Neely Brown and from LA Tech was Austin Flowers.





## Thank You To Our Sponsors





# The Scoop from The Scott Haug Foundation

## Jacque Patton Scott Haug Foundation President

Summer is upon us, which means Fall is not far behind. AND that means the annual TAA conference and a chance to be with colleagues, learn from experts in our field and enjoy some fun while supporting not-for-profit funds that enhance our profession.

The pre-conference begins on Thursday with some really worthwhile opportunities. The first is the annual Scott Haug Golf Tournament. Skills in golfing are not necessary to take part in this 18-hole scramble. You play in a team of 4 and play the best ball from each shot. This means that you can hit your shot into the trees, the water or just a few feet off the tee and still have a shot at sinking the team's putt on that hole. It is a lot of fun and a great way to enjoy a beautiful course and the company of friends and colleagues. You can put together a team of four players on your own or allow us to assign you to a team. There will be prizes for the closest to the pin, the longest drive and the winning team.

We are pleased to confirm our golf outing at the **Plantations Golf Club** on **November 3rd tee time 9am (Be at the course no later than 8:30, please. 4701 Plantation Lane, Frisco, TX, 75035)**. With your participation we will again create lasting memories by making new friendships and renewing older ones while having loads of fun. (We will end in time to allow your participation in pre-conference presentations Thursday afternoon by industry corporations and sponsors. These courses are the second worthwhile pre-conference opportunity.)

Your participation also supports the Scott Haug Foundation in its mission to acknowledge the best audiology students from each of the five Texas universities with doctoral programs in audiology. Monies raised at this event help the Foundation provide registration and lodging at the annual conference to the outstanding nominee through the Dr. Robert J. Dunlop Memorial Student Scholar Fund. You will be supporting excellence in audiology and having fun at the same time!!!!

**Fee for the tournament is \$75 per person.** Because the Scott Haug Foundation must guarantee payment for the group outing which is non-refundable, please understand that your payment will not be refunded if for any reason you are unable to play.

Please pay by personal check (as it does not incur any fees). Venmo is also available, if necessary. Please mail your non-refundable check (\$75/person) by October 27th to:

**The Scott Haug Foundation  
1671 Stallion Springs Drive  
Fischer, TX 78623**

Thank you for your support! I know that we are ALL looking forward to having a great time out on the course. It will be "too much fun." If you have any questions please let us know.  
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Jacque Patton  
SHF President

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# Establishing a Relationship with your Legislators: Your Grass Roots To-Do List

Alexander Morris, AuD

Vice-President of Legislative Issues, TAA

Part 1 of 3

Elected officials are no different than you or me—they are simply people doing a job. That job just so happens to be working for you and me to ensure our interests are represented within the government. Many politicians get their start at the local and state level, coming from a kaleidoscope of careers with varying lived experiences. Many of them are learning the job for the first time.

The Texas legislature only meets twice a year for 140 days. The session begins on the second Tuesday in January of odd-numbered years. Over a two-year period, we can think of the Texas electoral calendar as having four phases: the session, the break (golf season?), the primary, and the election campaign. Senators serve a term of four years while house members serve two years. Someone is always running for office or being elected, and this is where we as constituents can have the greatest impact.

For a profession whose licensure is determined at the state level (like audiology), a strong representation in and relationship with the state legislature is critical to **protecting our scope of practice and livelihood**. If the legislators of the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives do not know who we are, what we do, or if we live in their district, how can we expect them to work with our interest in mind? How can we expect them to work with the interest of our patients?

The answer: **establish a first-name basis relationship with your legislators**. The goal is not necessarily to become best friends with your legislators. Rather, you should have a close enough relationship so that if you run into them at the grocery store, he or she would recognize you and greet you by name.

Campaign season, which we are entering into now, is the most impactful time for you to forge this relationship. Candidates and/or incumbents are anxious to make new friends and are motivated to obtain your vote. After they have won, they may be too busy or think they have all the friends they need.

During campaign season, do the following with those running for Texas House or Senate in your district:

- **Introduce yourself often – and remind them of what you do**
- Start with the assumption that he/she has never heard the word “audiology” and build from there. This is a great way to dispel myths and spread awareness of what we do.
- Volunteer in their election campaign – show up to the campaign HQ, block walk, operate the phone banks, attend town hall meetings, host a coffee meet-up, and frequently attend campaign events
- **Candidates remember the people who helped them.** They meet so many people that seeing a familiar (friendly!) face at an event or meeting can be a huge relief.
- Contribute to the campaign – even a small amount
- As the saying goes, “money talks.” A donation will generate a thank you and, for new candidates struggling to get off the ground, every little bit helps. They will remember when you helped them.
- Follow the candidate(s) on social media – comment and like their postings. Share their posts with your network. Use their #hashtag.

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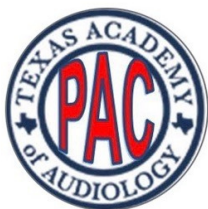
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# TAA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

(@TAA-PAC)

## ATTENTION TEXAS AUDIOLOGISTS!

*Kimberly DeBona, Au.D., PAC Treasurer*



**Kimberly DeBona**

@TAA-PAC

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WELL, THE PRIMARY IS OVER AND HAD SOME INTERESTING RESULTS. HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE THE GENERAL ELECTION COMING UP AND WE WILL NEED TO SUPPORT THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO WILL CHAMPION OUR CAUSES.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE TAA PAC TODAY!

YOU MAY GO ONLINE TO THE TAA WEBSITE [HTTPS://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/PAC\\_DONATION](https://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/PAC_DONATION) OR YOU MAY VENMO WITH THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT OR @TAA-PAC LAST 4 OF CELL: 7091

FINALLY, YOU CAN MAIL A CHECK PAYABLE TO TAA PAC TO:

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PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING YOUR TAA PAC BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

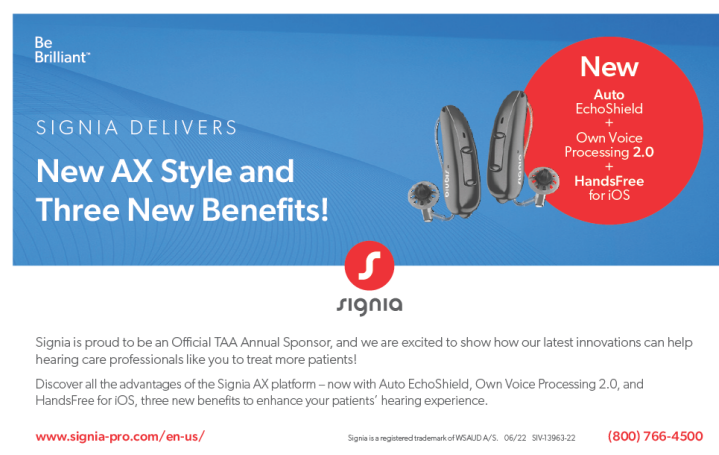


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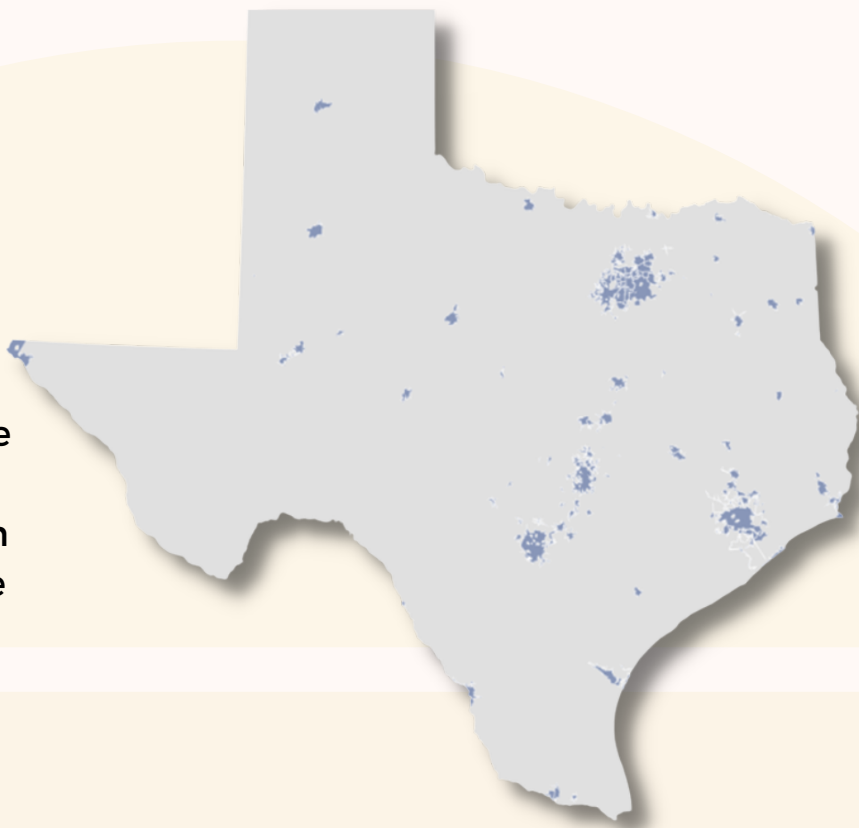


# TAA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

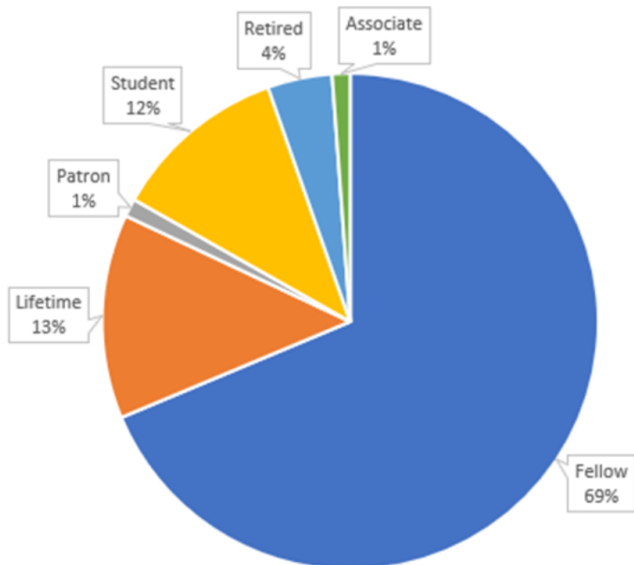
Jamie Myers, Au.D.

Vice President of Membership, TAA

Current TAA membership is strong, but we still have a way to go to get even half of licensed Texas audiologists among our membership. When we have the support of more audiologists, we can do so much more to protect our scope of practice, reimbursement, and representation in our state. Together, we can ensure the future of Texas audiology is bright. Let's look at how our current membership breaks down: Here is a look at our current membership by location on a map:



Active TAA Member Types



With TAA, you have many options when it comes to membership depending on your career stage and occupation. Memberships range from fellow, lifetime, associate, student, patron, or retired, there's a place for everyone that is connected to audiology. See how our membership types break down.



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# Medicaid Coverage for VEMPs Secured in Texas. What's next?

Anna M. Jilla, Au.D., Ph.D.

Vice President of Professional Issues, TAA  
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

CPT® codes for VEMP testing were created through a rigorous multi-year, multidisciplinary process and went into effect January 2021. Effective June 1, 2022, CPT® codes for Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP) testing (92517, 92518, and 92519) were added as a benefit of Texas Medicaid plans. These services should now be covered when provided by audiologists.

Additional information on coverage policies and documentation requirements for VEMP testing can be found in Volume 2: Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook, Section 9.2.28.4 (updated June 2022, <https://www.tmhp.com/resources/provider-manuals/tmppm>).

Other private insurers sometimes lag behind in their updates of coverage policies when new codes are created. Clinicians may identify lags in coverage policy updates when reviewing claim denials for these specific codes (92517, 92518, 92519).

Coverage policies may vary from payer to payer and, sometimes, even plan to plan. Parties interested in determining whether reasons for denial were due to lack of updated coverage policies after new code set releases are encouraged to review Evidence of Coverage documents for the specific plan. Additional inquiries regarding coverage policies can be directed to Provider Relations departments.

The American Academy of Audiology has posted a draft letter that can be amended for use by clinicians who are participating in payer advocacy efforts to update coverage policies among private insurers. These example letters can be found on the American Academy of Audiology website at <https://www.audiology.org/clinical-resources/aep-and-vemp-code-letter-templates/>.

The Texas Academy of Audiology welcomes member input on claim denials for VEMPs in order to determine trends and bolster efforts to address coverage gaps. Information can be directed to [professionalissues@texasaudiology.org](mailto:professionalissues@texasaudiology.org).

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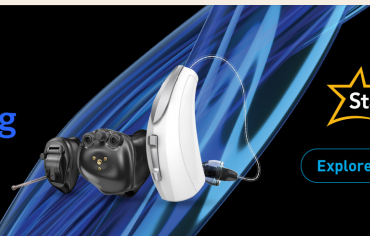
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# Telehealth Topics in Texas

Tracy Board, AuD

A number of TAA members have asked about the legality of mail order hearing aids and/or Over-The-Counter (OTC) devices in Texas, particularly in relation to our licensure.

During the height of the COVID 19 crisis, the Texas licensing board did change the rules for fitting and dispensing hearing aids to include fitting hearing aids through telehealth.

This change was made permanent by the board. Therefore, according to the TDLR website, **“Audiologists and audiology interns who fit and dispense hearing instruments through telehealth are no longer required to conduct an initial professional contact in person at the same physical location”** (suspension of 16 TAC §111.232(j)).”

This rule means that it is **NOT** illegal for hearing aids such as Lively to be fit without an in person consultation. Technically, hearing aids could be fit without ever performing an otoscopic evaluation on the patient.

It is the overwhelming opinion of the Texas Academy of Audiology Board of Directors that an **in person consultation should always take place when a person is initially being evaluated for hearing aids**, in order to follow best practices in Audiology.

Please refer to the TDLR website for the most up to date information regarding this issue.



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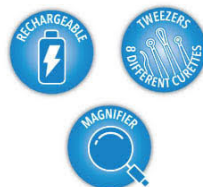


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Contact  
[taa@texasaudiology.org](mailto:taa@texasaudiology.org)

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ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW INTERESTED IN  
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SEND SELF-NOMINATIONS, COLLEAGUE NOMINATIONS,  
AND REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO  
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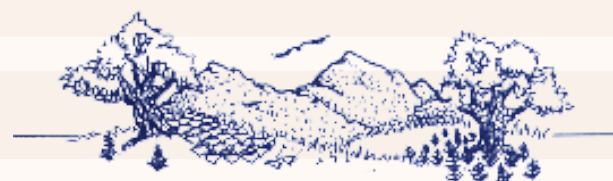
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