



PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE FOR MEDICAID SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

What are Medicaid School-Based Services?

If a child is Medicaid eligible and receives medically necessary services from a school district or charter school that are identified on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the school may bill Medicaid for the services. Services that are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement include:

- Behavioral Intervention
- Behavioral Consultation
- Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Nursing Services
- Personal Care Services
- Occupational Therapy and Evaluation
- Physical Therapy and Evaluation
- Speech/Audiological Therapy and Evaluation
- Psychological Evaluation
- Psychotherapy
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Services and Evaluation
- Social History and Evaluation
- Transportation Services
- Interpretive Services

What is the physician's role for school-based services in Idaho?

School-based services must be recommended or referred by a physician or other practitioner of the healing arts before providing Medicaid services for which the school district or charter school is seeking reimbursement. In addition, Speech Therapy (ST), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Physical Therapy (PT) must have a physician's order that includes at a minimum: the service to be provided, the frequency, and the duration of each session where applicable.



How can physicians help?

If a school district or charter school requests a recommendation for evaluations or services for a child, please review and respond within five business days of the request. Physicians are required to be involved in this process to determine if the services are medically necessary in order for the services to be reimbursed by Medicaid.

School-based services are determined by an interdisciplinary team of professionals through an IEP planning process. Under IDEA schools must assure that there is no delay in implementing services and must begin providing services based on the IEP effective date.

Are there standard forms for issuing a recommendation?

The Department of Education and Department of Health and Welfare have collaborated to develop forms to help schools and physicians with the recommendation process.

One form recommends evaluations and the second form recommends specific services. The forms create a cross-walk between the IEP and Medicaid billable services in order to simplify the review for physicians and speed up the recommendation process for schools.

How frequently are recommendations for services needed?

When a student's IEP has identified a need for Medicaid reimbursable the school is required to get a recommendation every 365 days or if services identified on the IEP change during the IEP year.

ST/OT/PT have additional requirements. In the event that these services are required for extended periods, there must be a reorder at least every 90 days except for an individual with a chronic medical condition as documented by the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant which must be reordered at least every 6 months.

What resources are available to learn more about Medicaid school-based services?

Visit the website at www.sbs.dhw.idaho.gov for information including rules, guidelines, required forms, updates, and contacts. Also, email Medicaid school-based services at SchoolBasedServices@dhw.idaho.gov if you have any questions.