

June 2021



<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/>

The June 2021 newsletter will provide school districts with an overview of all that has taken place this academic year and what is on the horizon for next year. Below you will find changes that were made this year, information that was shared, and a few of the OMS' priorities for next year.

Academic Year 2020 – 2021 General Medicaid Overview

Medicaid Policy Changes

Removal of Code Description Language

Procedure code description language was removed by SCDHHS from the “Covered Services and Definitions” section of the LEA Services Provider Manual in April 2021. The language is now present in [Section 4 – Procedure Code](#) with the exception of the timeframe associated with the physical therapy and occupational therapy evaluation codes. Though the information is no longer present, the districts are responsible for knowing and utilizing correct codes based on time.

Professional Title & Term Changes

The SCDHHS made updates in March 2021 to the Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Provider Manual. Staff title “Qualified Mental Health Professional” was changed to “Qualified Clinical Professional” and “Child Services Professional” was changed to “Human Services Professional” in the staff qualifications table and throughout the manual. Additionally, the language/phrase “same-day service exclusion” was changed to “same-day service restriction” throughout the manual.

Referrals by Occupational Therapists

In February 2021, the SCDE recognized that occupational therapists (OT) can complete a referral for occupational therapy services. The LPHA referral chart is available on the OMS webpage at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/medicaid-program-quality-assurance/school-based-rehabilitative-services/school-based-rehabilitative-services/forms/>.

Access to the LEA Provider Manual is available at the 'DHHS Link' located under the 'Additional Resources' tab on the OMS webpage at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/medicaid-program-quality-assurance/additional-resources/additional-resources/dhhs-links/>. The Occupational Therapy Practice Act and Occupational Therapy Regulations, Chapter 94 can be found on the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) website at <https://www.llr.sc.gov/ot/>.

Nursing COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 Testing (87811) when administered by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) was approved for reimbursement February 2021. The fee schedule can be found at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/medicaid-program-quality-assurance/additional-resources/additional-resources/fee-schedule-7-1-21/>

MCO Changes

MCO Acquisition

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced in January 2021 that Centene Corporation (i.e., Absolute Total Care) acquired/bought-out WellCare Health Plans, Inc. (i.e., WellCare of South Carolina), both managed care organizations (MCO) contracted with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS).

In April 2021 students who were existing WellCare Medicaid members became Absolute Total Care (ATC) members and are served by Absolute Total Care. As a reminder, all Healthy Connections members transferred to Absolute Total Care will maintain a continuity of care period for up to 90 days. Moving forward, all claims for all services rendered on or after April 1, 2021 must be submitted to ATC. Districts not enrolled with ATC did not have to enroll. All districts were automatically transitioned/enrolled with ATC.

Please remember that WellCare will remain responsible for claims, appeals and hearings, and other administrative processes that occurred prior to April 1, 2021. WellCare will keep their administrative processes in place for at least 12 months (i.e., April 1, 2022) to fulfill Medicaid requirements (i.e., Medicaid providers have up to one year from the date of service to submit a claim).

MCO Expansion- For RBHS Providers

SCDHHS announced that beginning July 1, 2021, SCDHHS would be adding managed care organization (MCO), Humana to serve Healthy Connections Medicaid members. Districts were informed that they should expect to receive correspondence from Humana as they begin contracting with providers and continue to develop their provider network.

As more information is made available by SCDHHS, the OMS will communicate the impact to the school districts.

OMS Webpage Changes

The OMS webpage was updated to make navigation easier. Documents are now grouped by Medicaid programs and other important categories (SDAC, SNT, SBRS, TPL, etc.). Forms, FAQs, trainings, etc. specific to each program/category are available. Older documents are in the 'Archives' folder of the specific program area/category. Links to Medicaid's manuals and bulletins are available to view and download. TPL letters are available and uploaded to the OMS webpage as received. The URL for the homepage did not change and can still be found at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/>.

Please review the website regularly for additional updates that will be made and information that will be added to the website for academic year 2021 – 2022.

New General Email Account

The Office of Medicaid Services created and informed districts of the designated email account/box for the OMS at MedicaidServices@ed.sc.gov. When unsure of the appropriate contact regarding your questions and concerns, this email should be utilized.

New Secure Email Program Launched

On February 27, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) changed the program it uses to send secure emails. With the new program, as a recipient of a secure email, you no longer need a password to view the email. Instead, when you open the message, you click on the option to receive a one-time passcode. When you complete this action, an email containing a passcode will be sent to your inbox.

Please remember to visit the SCDHHS website's provider page for a list of frequently asked questions regarding the transition to the new program and for detailed instructions on how to view secure messages.

District and Entity Information Management System (DEIMS)

An SCDE memo was sent to superintendents on June 30, 2020 regarding the District and Entity Information Management System (DEIMS) that contains the official district contact or program liaison lists. It's fully operational through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Member Center. The memo reflected that districts are responsible for updating the information in DEIMS at the beginning of each new school year and throughout the school year as needed. Please ensure that your district's contact information for program leads (Medicaid Coordinator, SDAC Coordinator, SNT Coordinator, etc.) are updated in DEIMS by contacting your Web Access Coordinator. Including the appropriate contacts ensures that the correct persons within each district receive emails, memos, newsletters, & etc. from the OMS.

Academic Year 2020 – 2021 Quality Assurance Overview

Changes were made to the QA process this year. Instead of reviewing all districts, only 35 districts were reviewed this academic school year. The number of districts reviewed was reduced in an effort to provide more training and support to districts needing assistance. Service specific training was provided based on the findings during the review.

If your district was reviewed this academic school year, please ensure to complete the following as previously advised:

- Review the district's QA Follow-Up Report via the QA Medicaid Application
- Submit a corrective action plan (CAP), if applicable and
- Accept the final QA Follow-Up Report via the QA Medicaid Application.

The OMS is here to work alongside each district to ensure that children throughout SC receive quality services and the care needed. All districts will be able to review the trainings on the OMS webpage at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/>.

Referral Form

The Referral Form was updated to include frequently utilized diagnosis codes. As a reminder, districts are not required to use the provided referral forms and Medicaid does not require that a diagnosis code be captured on the referral form. School districts may develop and utilize another referral form, but all Medicaid components must be included. Enrich and PCG are aware the diagnosis code is not required to be listed on the referral form.

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)

Medicaid RBHS Consent Form

The OMS made revisions to the Medicaid RBHS Consent form. The revision clarified that all eligible school-aged children that are Medicaid recipients can receive RBHS even if the child does not receive services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and that when only assessment services are rendered, parents/guardians are not required to participate as full member of the RBHS team. The consent form is located in the Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services' 'Forms' section of the OMS webpage at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/medicaid/medicaid-program-quality-assurance/rehabilitative-behavioral-health-services-rbhs/rehabilitative-behavioral-health-services/forms/>.

Maintenance of Staff Credentials

Local Education Agencies (LEA) enrolled as Rehabilitative Behavior Health Services (RBHS) were reminded that providers are required to utilize the RBHS manual for guidance. Maintenance of staff credentials are required, and a comprehensive overview for screening staff is located in the "Maintenance of Staff Credentials" section of the RBHS manual.

Maintenance requirements and screenings include:

- Criminal Background Checks: LEA may conduct a criminal background check for staff via South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) at <https://catch.sled.sc.gov/CRCEligibility.aspx>.
- Sex Offender Checks: LEA may conduct sex offender checks for staff via SLED at <https://catch.sled.sc.gov/CRCEligibility.aspx>; AND the National Sex Offender Public Website (NOSOPW) <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Search/Verification>
- Child Abuse Registry Checks: LEA may conduct child abuse registry checks via the South Carolina Department of Social Services' (SCDSS) Central

Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect by submitting the DSS 3072 Form. The form can be located at https://dss.sc.gov/media/1753/dss-form-3072_rev-may-18.pdf

Academic Year 2020 – 2021 Special Needs Transportation (SNT) Overview

Special Needs Transportation Reimbursements to School Districts for FY 20/21

The Office of Medicaid Services sent reimbursement to districts in December 2020 in the amount of \$610,794 of which eight districts received more than \$20,000 each and two districts received more than \$40,000 each. Due to Covid-19 and the mandate that school district go to a virtual learning model we have seen a decrease in services provided which has impacted the total special needs transportation revenue. It is anticipated that in June 2021 the OMS will pay districts approximately \$406,374, with ten districts receiving more than \$12,000 each and one district receiving more than \$40,000.

SNT Software & Application Updates/Modifications

During FY2021, the following updates/modifications the Special Needs Transportation (SNT) program were made:

- Ridership logs were modified on March 1, 2021, to include the district address, phone number, and license tag of the bus. All districts should be utilizing this log unless they have a current approval from SCDE to use a different log.
- Districts were required to complete ridership updates in the SNT application no less than monthly to produce a consistent revenue stream.

Tyler Technology introduced their table for student tracking, Traversa, to 25 school districts. The districts will be utilizing tablets on the bus to track student ridership. Those districts utilizing the tablets at this time, also need to be complete the manual ridership sheets until the appropriate reports can be extracted.

SNT Training

There were 4 virtual and 3 on-site district specific trainings held throughout the academic year. If on-site or virtual training is needed by your district, please reach out to Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

The annual SNT training will occur this summer and will be interactive. Your attendance is important as there have been recent changes to the SNT application (discussed above), and there may be minor, additional changes to the SNT application prior to the next academic school year. Please be on the lookout for a meeting invitation.

Ridership Updates

All updates (click/unclick) to the ridership attendance on the SCDE website for the school year 2020-2021 should be completed by June 30, 2021.

SCDE will apply the end date in the SNT application this year. The district does not need to end date any data.

Academic Year 2020 – 2021 SDAC Overview

Survey Completion

In School year 19-20, districts completed nearly 88% of their assigned surveys despite the presence of a global pandemic in the second half of the school year. This year, districts are on pace to complete more than 90% of their assigned surveys despite the continued impact of the pandemic. As you may know, an 85% completion rate is required for the surveys to be considered statistically valid and you are on pace to exceed that threshold. Thank you so much for your hard work in getting these surveys completed this year.

SDAC Training

SDAC Training was conducted on August 4th, 2020. The training addressed the SDAC roster, completion of the random moment surveys, and offered tips for navigating the SDAC Application. The PowerPoint and associated training materials were posted to the SDAC portion of the OMS website. Please be on the lookout for an invite to the annual SDAC training this summer. As with previous trainings, this will be conducted virtually and uploaded to the SCDE website. If you would like to schedule an in-person training for new SDAC coordinators or participants or would like a refresher for veteran coordinators or participants, please contact Matthew Melton.

In addition to the annual training, fifteen separate small group trainings were held virtually between March 25th and March 31st. These trainings gave a refresher on SDAC Activity Codes and discussed how activities related to COVID could be rolled into the SDAC program.

SDAC

The JFM quarter will be closing on June 15th. Please contact any participant with an outstanding survey and ask them to complete their survey. If they are unable to login or need other technical assistance, please contact Matthew Melton by phone at (803) 734-2108.

SDAC Fees

The annual SDAC fee notifications were sent to districts in April. Reminder emails were sent in May. These fees must be paid to SCDE before the end of the fiscal year (i.e., June 30th). Four districts have not paid their fees as of May 21st. If you have not done so, please send your checks for the annual fee to:

Renee Gibson
Office of Medicaid Services
1429 Senate Street
Rutledge Suite 808
Columbia, SC 29201

If you have questions regarding your annual fee, please contact Matthew Melton via phone (803) 734-2108.

District Contracts with SCDHHS

Districts were notified that new SDAC contracts from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) for fiscal year (FY) 2021 – 2023 were delayed this year. At this time, all applicable districts should have received and returned their contracts to SCDHHS. If you have not received your contract, please contact SCDHHS immediately. If you have not returned your contract to SCDHHS please do so immediately.

On the Horizon

Contracts

Rehabilitation & Related Services

Districts should be hearing from SCDHHS regarding the 2022 – 2024 service contracts soon. Ensure that the appropriate person(s) within your district are expecting the contract and are prepared to execute the contract. By doing so, the contract can be executed quickly.

District Consolidations- SDAC and SNT Contracts

For districts consolidating effective July 1, 2021, please be on the lookout for new SDAC and SNT contracts from the OMS. These contracts will need to be signed by your District Superintendent to continue participating in the SDAC and SNT programs. The district Special Education Director, SDAC Coordinator, and SNT Coordinator will be copied on the email correspondence to the District Superintendent. If you have questions about your SDAC contract, please contact Matthew Melton (803-734-2108) and for about your SNT contract, please contact Ronette Weeks (rmweeks@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-3913).

90 Day Progress Summary:

The OMS had additional discussions with the SCDHHS regarding the 90-day progress summary being completed every 9-weeks instead of every 90 days. Once SCDHHS gives written approval/guidance, the OMS will notify school districts immediately. Until SCDHHS has instructed otherwise, districts must stay the course and continue completing both the 90-day summary and 9-week summary.

Third Party Liability (TPL) Letters

Unfortunately, the OMS did not receive a high response rate from third-party insurance carriers this academic school year and therefore, few letters were available for districts to utilize.

The OMS has submitted letter requests to third party vendors for academic school year 2021- 2022. A few letters have already been received. All letters received from third party insurance carriers for the next academic school year will be made available on the OMS webpage before the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic school year.

TPL Training

TPL training remains high on the OMS' list of priority. The OMS is continuing to communicate with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) regarding training availability. The OMS intend to provide guidance regarding available training via BCBS or make training available via the OMS. Districts will be notified of any TPL training made available.

Medicaid Provider Relief Fund- Registration Completion

As you are aware, recipients of PRF payments exceeding \$10,000 in aggregate must register in the Provider Relief Fund Reporting Portal. The deadline established to register for reporting was February 15, 2021. Recently the deadline was extended, and registration is still open. Currently, there is no deadline for completing registration in the portal. I advise districts who have not registered, to do so as soon as possible.

Recipients will receive a notification about when they should complete the second step of submitting reporting requirements information on the use of funds. HRSA will send a broadcast email to the email address you provide during the registration process.

Please note that the registration process will take at least 20 minutes to complete and must be completed in one session. You cannot save a partially complete registration. Make sure you have all the information required to register before you begin.

Tell Us

What topics would you like us to address in the monthly newsletter. It is our goal to support our school districts and give them all the information that they need in order to be successful in billing and providing Medicaid Services. Send all topics to our office email address MedicaidServices@ed.sc.gov.