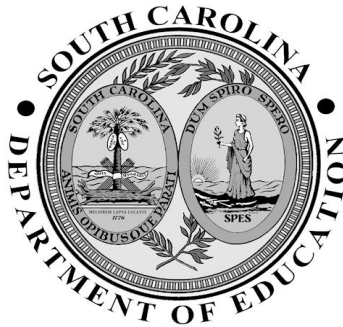


July 2022



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

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Update

Contracts & Service Delivery Options

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has released guidance to ensure that districts are aware of the process and steps that will need to be taken to provide and receive Medicaid reimbursement for school based mental health services rendered. If a school district plans to make RBHS available to students in the school district and receive Medicaid reimbursement for services rendered by the provider of services, the first step in the process is to contract with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Each district must sign the contract received from the SCDHHS to receive Medicaid reimbursement. The SCDHHS' RBHS contract was sent to each school districts' Superintendent on June 21, 2022. The contract was then forwarded to each district's RBHS and/or Medicaid Coordinator.

Please remember that you have three options to ensure that school based mental health services are available to students within your school district.

1. District employee/personnel to provide services,
2. Subcontract with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH), and/or
3. Subcontract with a private/community provider.

School districts can utilize a hybrid of the three options above (i.e., district employees can provide services and the district can subcontract with a third party). Regardless of the option(s) selected by the district to deliver school based mental health services (see three options above), the district must sign the SCDHHS RBHS contract. Therefore,

- If the school district plans to provide services, the school district will need to sign the SCDHHS contract.
- If the school district will be subcontracting with SCDMH to render services, the school district will need to sign the SCDHHS contract.
- If the school district will be subcontracting with a private/community provider, the school district will need to sign the SCDHHS contract.

Again, the district and subcontractors can only receive Medicaid reimbursement and the enhanced/increased rates only if the new SCDHHS contract is signed.

Milestones

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released guidance and a timeline to ensure that districts are aware of important dates/milestones, information, and steps that will need to be taken to accurately complete the RBHS enrollment process.

Please find the important milestones below.

- **June 17, 2022-** SCDHHS issued a RBHS Provider Bulletin.
- **June 21, 2022-** SCDHHS issued RBHS contracts to school districts.
- **June 24, 2022-** SCDHHS issued and released a Public Notice.
- **June 24, 2022-** SCDHHS issued released the updated LEA Provider Manual.
- **June 27, 2022-** The alternative fee schedule/rates were released by SCDHHS.
- **July 8, 2022-** RBHS contracts must be signed by school districts and returned to SCDHHS to participate and receive Medicaid reimbursement for RBHS rendered. The signed contract gives districts the authority to receive Medicaid reimbursement for services rendered service by the district or a district's selected subcontractor. By signing and returning the RBHS contract, it does not mean that the school district must begin providing or billing for services immediately, nor does it mean that your school district must have a fully executed plan to deliver services in place. Again, signing and returning the contract gives your district the authority to receive Medicaid reimbursement for services rendered by the district or a district's selected subcontractor.
- **July 13, 2022-** SCDHHS will execute school district contracts and send executed contracts to school districts. After SCDHHS executes the RBHS contract, districts can begin the subcontracting process and the managed care organization (MCO) enrollment processes. As stated in the RBHS section of the LEA Provider Manual (pg. 37), a copy of the LEA's contract with SCDHHS, if applicable, must be provided to the subcontractor by attachment to the subcontract.
- **August 12, 2022-** School District must submit the Contract Implementation Report to SCDHHS. The implementation plan should reflect the district's intended plan at the time of submission. As updates to the implementation plan will be submitted to SCDHHS quarterly, districts will have the opportunity to update the implementation plan as needed.

A [memo](#) highlighting the milestones listed above was released by State Superintendent, Molly Spearman on June 22, 2022.

Local Education Agencies (LEA) Provider Manual

The SCDHHS has released the updated [Local Education Agencies \(LEA\) Provider Manual](#) on Friday, June 21, 2022. The newly released manual includes both, School Based Rehabilitative Services (PART I) and Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (PART II). Please review the manual in its entirety and reach out to the Office of Medicaid Service (OMS) should you have any questions or concerns. SCDHHS will soon release training(s) specific to RBHS. The OMS will share the link to the training(s) upon release by SCDHHS.

School Based Services Fee Schedule/Rates

The SCDHHS has released the [school-based fee schedule](#). School districts will be reimbursed at the rates listed on the fee schedule once the school district's RBHS contract is signed and returned to Medicaid (deadline July 8, 2022). Subcontractors selected by school districts to render services (i.e., the South Carolina Department of Mental Health clinic or community/private providers) will be reimbursed at the rates listed within the fee schedule also, but only after the school district has returned the signed RBHS contract to SCDHHS and has executed a subcontract with the chosen subcontractor. The subcontractor will need to

present the subcontract to SCDHHS before the subcontractor can bill Medicaid for services rendered or be reimbursed by Medicaid.

The increased RBHS rates are effective July 1, 2022; however, the SCDHHS has requested that school districts refrain from billing for RBHS rendered to students during July 2022, until August 2022. The SCDHHS plans to conduct claim testing to ensure that claims are reimbursed appropriately. If districts submit a claim for July dates of service prior to August 2022, it is possible that the district will be reimbursed, but the reimbursed amount will reflect the old rate, not the new rate. The district would then need to void all claims submitted for the month of July and resubmit the claims to receive the new rate. To avoid this administrative burden, please refrain from billing for services that will be provided during July 2022, until August 2022. The OMS will provide updates as more guidance is released from SCDHHS.

School-Based Mental Health Services Webpage

On June 30, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released a [Provider Alert](#) which identifies updates and available resources in support of its school-based mental health services initiative. The resources available include the updated Local Education Agencies (LEA) provider manual, alternative fee schedule, school district important milestones document, frequently asked questions (FAQ) document and etc., which can all be found on the [SCDHHS' school-based mental health services website](#). The FAQs will be updated periodically as new questions are submitted to SCDHHS for review. Please review the new website to ensure that you have the most current information regarding the school-based mental health services initiative.

Telehealth Flexibility Extended

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released a bulletin announcing updates to temporary policy changes that were put into place to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic via emergency authorities derived from the federal public health emergency (PHE). Previous policy changes that were put into place included a heavy emphasis on building upon SCDHHS' existing telehealth benefit and extended telehealth flexibilities for a wide variety of services where early evidence demonstrated a service may be able to be performed with an efficacy and quality of care comparable to the service provided in a face-to-face format.

SCDHHS has evaluated utilization data and consulted with the state's Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), the provider community and other stakeholders, and as a result has announced changes that will take effect once the current federal PHE has expired. Providers are advised that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that the federal PHE will remain in effect until **at least July 15, 2022**.

SCDHHS announced that telehealth flexibilities for some behavioral health services will be extended for further evaluation. The following procedure codes/services can continue to be rendered via telehealth:

- 90791- Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation without medical
- H0031- Follow-up Assessment
- 90832- Individual psychotherapy, 30 minutes
- 90834- Individual psychotherapy, 45 minutes
- 90837- Individual psychotherapy, 60 minutes
- 90846- Family psychotherapy, without client, 50 minutes
- 90847- Family psychotherapy, including client, 50 minutes

SCDHHS announced that telehealth flexibilities for some physical and speech therapy services will be extended for further evaluation. The following procedure codes/services can continue to be rendered via telehealth:

- 92507- Speech therapy
- 97110- Physical therapy

SCDHHS also announced that telehealth flexibilities for some behavioral health and occupational therapy services **will expire** at the end of the current, federal PHE.

- 97530- Occupational therapy
- H2014- Behavior modification
- H2017- Psychosocial rehabilitation service (individual)
- S9482- Family support

Please review the SCDHHS bulletin [22-005](#) in its entirety to ensure that you are in compliance with Medicaid's requirements. Please reach out to your district's assigned Education Associate should you have any questions and/or concerns.

District Consolidations

Districts that will be consolidating effective July 1, 2022, please ensure that you have completed or are on track to complete all the required Medicaid consolidation steps. The Medicaid [Consolidation Checklist 2021 – 2022](#) is available on the Office of Medicaid Services (OMS) webpage for your review. If you have any questions or need assistance from the OMS, please reach out to your district's assigned Education Associate (EA) for guidance as soon as possible.

Quality Assurance (QA)

End of Review Year Closing

The QA Team would like to thank each district for their participation during the 2021-2022 review year. We look forward to continued collaboration! Please contact your Education Associate if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great summer!

Upcoming School Year

Please find quality assurance (QA) updates for the upcoming school year.

- Checklist Updates- The QA checklists are being reviewed and updated. There will be changes to the checklists for the next school year. Districts will be notified when checklists are available on the OMS' webpage for review.

- Review Dates- To assist districts in preparing for their annual QA review, districts will be notified of their review dates in August. Districts will still receive their 30-day notification email along with the list of the student files that will be reviewed during the audit.
- Internal Self-Assessment (ISA) Completion- Per the districts' SCDHHS contract, each school district must complete their ISA at least two weeks prior to the OMS' QA review. Districts do not have to wait until the 30-day QA review notification is received from the OMS to begin completing the ISA. Once the district is notified of the QA review date via the QA application in August, the district can begin completing the district's ISA.
- In-person Reviews- The OMS QA will be transitioning to onsite reviews for the upcoming school year. There will be options for desk reviews; additional information is forthcoming.
- Trainings: OMS trainings are being updated and will be made available on the OMS webpage. The OMS is working alongside SCDHHS on RBHS trainings which will also be posted to the OMS webpage. Districts will be notified when trainings are available on the OMS' webpage for review.

District and Entity Information Management System (DEIMS)

Please ensure that your district's contact information for program leads (e.g., Medicaid Coordinator, SDAC Coordinator, SNT Coordinator, etc.) are updated in DEIMS. School districts are responsible for updating information in DEIMS at the beginning of each new school year and throughout the school year as needed. The DEIMS contact list is used for all communication. It is imperative that your district's contact list is up to date to ensure that your district receives all OMS information and communication. If you need assistance with updating your district's contact list, please contact your district's Web Access Coordinator.

School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC)

Completion Rate

Thank you to all the SDAC coordinators for a successful year. The fourth quarter SDAC completion rate was 94.73%, The SDAC completion rate for the year was 94.74%! Your commitment to the success of the program is appreciated.

Fourth Quarter Invoice

As a reminder, once you have entered the financial data, please send notification to Fiscal Manager, Ophelia McClary at omcclary@ed.sc.gov. The invoices are generated by the OMS once the district notifies the OMS that their financial information has been entered. The district will not be able to view the invoice until it has been generated by the OMS. A notification email is sent to the district, once the invoice has been generated by the OMS. The signed invoice must be sent to Fiscal Manager, Ophelia McClary at omcclary@ed.sc.gov. All final invoices for AMJ 2022 will need to be submitted for payment by July30, 2022.

Fees

On April 1, 2022, your district received an invoice via email for the annual fee charged by SCDE for your district's participation in the Medicaid SDAC program. There are three remaining districts that have not submitted the SDAC payment. If your district has not done so already, please send the payment for the SDAC fee as soon as possible. Please refer to the Administrative Claiming Agreement between SCDE and your school district for details regarding the SDAC fee.

Participant Listing

The current FY 2022 participant list will carry over to FY 2023 when FY 2023 is opened in the SDAC application. FY 2023 will open in the SDAC application mid-August. Please make adjustments to the FY 2022 participant list if the district does not want specific participants to be carried over to the FY 2023 participant list for the next school year. For example, if you have a participant who will be retiring, make the individual inactive and the name will not carry over to FY 2023. New participants may be added before or after the carryover of the FY 2022 participants.

If you need assistance with the participant list, please contact Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

Yearly Training

Training for the SDAC Coordinators will be held starting the first week in August. There will be multiple opportunities to attend the required training. Additionally, new participant training material will be posted to the SCDE OMS webpage for the SDAC Coordinators to utilize during their training of the district's SDAC participants. Please make sure to schedule time to train all new participants prior to the start of first quarter sampling.

Special Needs Transportation (SNT)

Action Needed

A new application is currently being developed for FY 2023. Please make sure you are prepared to start the new school year utilizing the SCDE approved paper logs until the system is available. The target date for implementation is September 1, 2023.

Please make sure your ridership logs for the current school year are updated in the Special Needs Transportation application by the end of June. The OMS will automatically close SNT application records (i.e., District Bus Management, Bus Drivers, and Student Information) with a June 30, 2022, end date. The district will still be able to input ridership after the automated end dates; however, with a new application being implemented, it is imperative that all logs be entered before the new application is online. Any activity post July 1, 2022, will be recorded in the new SNT application.

If you need any assistance or have questions about completing updates to the logs, closing out records, or the process for starting the upcoming school year with paper logs, please contact Ronette Weeks @ rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

Payments for School Year 2021-2022

On June 13, 2022, each school district was notified via email of the reimbursement amount that the district will receive from SCDE for school year 2021-2022. This will be the final of two payments during this academic year. If you have any concerns regarding the reimbursement amount referenced in the notification letter, please reach out to Fiscal Manager, Ophelia Mcclary at omcclary@ed.sc.gov.

Special Needs Transportation (SNT) and School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) Contracts

School districts have received the new SDAC contract . Please ensure that your district's contract is signed and returned as instructed. The SNT contracts are in the process of being distributed to districts. The SNT contract will be mailed to your district's Superintendent for signature. Please return the signed contract **no later than July 15, 2022**. The OMS looks forward to continued partnership with the districts on the SDAC and SNT programs.

Quarterly & Bi-Monthly Meetings

Quarterly Finance School District Meeting

The OMS' quarterly finance meeting will be held July 6-7, 2022. A meeting invitation will be sent to all districts prior to the meeting. If there are any questions that you have or topics that you wish to discuss during the upcoming meeting, please send your request(s) to Fiscal Manager, Monica C. McKinney at mcmckinney@ed.sc.gov.

Quarterly QA School District Meeting

The OMS QA team looks forward to continuing to work alongside districts and ensuring that districts receive the assistance and guidance needed. The next QA quarterly meeting will be scheduled for September 2022. Meeting invitations will be sent to district Medicaid Coordinators and Special Education Directors.

The quarterly meetings are open to all LEA providers and administrators rendering Medicaid services, and all staff (e.g., Speech Language Pathologists (SLP), Occupational Therapists (OT), Physical Therapists (PT), nurses, etc.) are encouraged to attend. Please submit questions and topics that you would like to be discussed. Your questions and suggestions must be submitted to your district's assigned Education Associate (EA) or the OMS at medicaidservices@ed.sc.gov prior to your district's scheduled meeting.

Bi-Monthly SDAC Meeting

Mandatory coordinator training will be held in August 2022. There will be several opportunities to attend. A Microsoft Teams invitation will be sent to SDAC Coordinators two weeks in advance of the meeting. SDAC Coordinators may forward the meeting invitation to other persons within their district as they see fit.

Bi-Monthly Special Needs Transportation (SNT) Meeting

Mandatory user training for the new SNT application will be held in August/September 2022. There will be several opportunities to attend. A Microsoft Teams invitation will be sent to the SNT and Medicaid Coordinators two weeks in advance of the meeting. Coordinators may forward the meeting invitation to other persons within their district as they see fit.

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 to be successful in billing and providing Medicaid Services. Send all topics to our office email address MedicaidServices@ed.sc.gov.