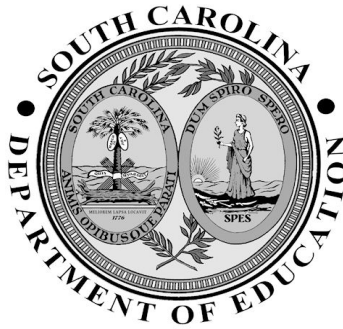


January 2023



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

Medicaid Updates

Local Education Agency Policy Updates

On December 15, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released [Medicaid Bulletin #22-036](#) which identifies forthcoming policy updates to the LEA Provider Manual that are effective January 1, 2023.

The following updates will be made and published in the LEA Provider Manual prior to January 1, 2023:

- Discharge criteria will be added;
- Progress summaries must now include any barriers to progress and the reason why there was a failure to provide the recommended services and frequencies, when applicable; and,
- Evidenced-based practices that are used during services will be required to be documented in a clinical service note (CSN).

As stated within the bulletin, please direct any questions or concerns regarding the specific updates to the SCDHHS' Office of Behavioral Health at (803) 898-1891 or behavioralhealth004@scdhhs.gov. Your district's Education Associate (EA) will be happy to assist you with any concerns that you may have regarding the policy updates.

Co-signature Requirements for Speech Language Pathology Services

October 21, 2022

On October 21, 2022, a memorandum was released to all school districts regarding co-signature requirements when a Speech Language Therapist (SLT) completes a reevaluation or individualized education program (IEP). Speech reevaluations or IEPs completed by the Speech Language Therapist (SLT) must be co-signed by a licensed Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). The effective date for both requirements was November 1, 2022.

December 19, 2022

On December 19, 2022, a memorandum was released to all school district clarifying and providing the following guidance regarding the October 21, 2022, memorandum:

- For Medicaid purposes, SLPs are not required to attend IEP meetings when the SLP's co-signature is required on the IEP.

- A supplemental statement completed and signed by the SLP may be utilized for the co-signature of the SLP when the SLP cannot attend the IEP meeting to sign the IEP. The SLP's completed and signed supplemental statement must clearly state that the SLP has reviewed and approves the speech therapy services/treatment, length, frequency, and type (individual or group) of service as outlined within the IEP and agreed upon by the IEP team.
- A supplemental statement cannot be utilized for the co-signature of the SLP when the reevaluation is completed by the SLT.

Register to Receive SCDHHS Bulletins & Alerts

As previously shared via email and newsletter, please be sure that you have subscribed to receive SCDHHS' [Medicaid bulletins](#). Simply type your email address into the designated space on the webpage, and press "subscribe" or "submit" to ensure that your district receives the latest and all applicable updates from SCDHHS. Please reach out to your district's assigned EA should you need assistance.

SCDHHS Provider Trainings

On Thursday, November 17, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) published a bulletin announcing [Upcoming Healthy Connections Medicaid Provider Training Opportunities – Dec. 2022 – Feb. 2023](#). Training topics include Medicaid Basics, Comprehensive Web Tool and Overview of Claim-level Adjustments and TPL. To register for a workshop, please visit the Medicaid eLearning site, www.medicaidlearning.com, or call (888) 289-0709 and select option 1. Additional training resources for providers are also available online through the [Medicaid eLearning site](#).

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Updates

2023 RBHS Survey

On November 18, 2022, the SCDHHS informed school districts that School Mental Health Surveys, such as the one sent out in early 2022, will be sent to districts in 2023. The intent of the 2023 survey is to capture data to evaluate the utilization of RBHS, as well as the satisfaction with subcontracted service providers. Your participation in that survey will help continue to guide the SCDHHS in the development of RBHS in the school settings.

Implementation Plans

On November 18, 2022, the SCDHHS notified school districts that the updates to the implementation plans will no longer need to be submitted. SCDHHS will continue to monitor and track the implementation of RBHS in each district through claims submissions. Because of this, it is extremely important to remember to put the school ID # and the appropriate modifier on each claim.

Unique School Identification (ID) Number

Please ensure that school based mental health claims submitted to SCDHHS include the district's unique school ID number as stated within the SCDHHS' [provider alert](#) released on July 21, 2022. The unique school ID **must** be placed on each claim. The location of the unique school ID # on the claim is dependent upon the type of claim that is submitted.

- **For Paper Claims:** Utilize Box 19 on the CMS 1500 Claims Form.
- **For Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Claims:** Utilize Loop 2300 NTE Segment.
- **For Web Tool Claims:** Utilize the "MHN Referral Number" field in the web tool.

Please review the provider alert in its entirety as there are important reminders and resources that will be useful to each school district.

SC School Behavioral Health Academy (SBHA)

The University of South Carolina Department of Psychology, in partnership with the SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has announced the launch of the John H. Magill [SC School Behavioral Health Academy \(SBHA\)](#). The SC SBHA is designed to support school districts as they strengthen mental health services to students using a multi-tiered systems approach. Through a mix of online instruction and in-person coaching, the SC SBHA will assist school districts in responding to the child and adolescent mental health crisis by adopting practical, science-based approaches to improving mental health for all students.

SCDHHS' School-based Mental Health Services Website

Please be sure to visit the [SCDHHS' school-based mental health services website](#) as there are many resources to support school districts in providing RBHS. The resources available include the [updated Local Education Agencies \(LEA\) provider manual](#), [alternative fee schedule](#), [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) document, implementation plan template, etc. Please follow-up with your district's assigned EA if you have any questions and/or concerns after reviewing the website's resources.

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Training

On November 17, 2022, all school districts received an email from the OMS asking if MCO training was needed relative to RBHS claim submissions, prior authorization requests, credentialing, etc. Of the 79 school districts, 13 districts replied and requested specific MCO training. Those 13 districts' needs and contact information was shared with the appropriate SCDHHS and MCO contacts.

Due to the low response rate, the OMS recommended to SCDHHS that the MCOs extend training invitations to all school districts. The OMS provided the contact information of all school districts' Medicaid Coordinators, Medicaid Billers, and RBHS Coordinators to SCDHHS and the MCOs on December 9, 2022.

The following MCOs have made available the identified training information below.

Absolute Total Care (ATC)

Absolute Total Care will be providing two virtual training sessions in January. Both training sessions will consist of the same information, but feel free to attend both. ATC will be sending the training invitations to all school districts' Medicaid Coordinators, Medicaid Billers, and RBHS Coordinators as they were identified in DEIMS on December 8, 2022.

- Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 1:00 – 2:00 PM
- Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Districts can register for the January 24th and 26th training using the following links:

1/24/2023: https://centene.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zqvRtYZKT72vnyp4zpOg_g

1/26/2023: https://centene.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zqvRtYZKT72vnyp4zpOg_g

Healthy Blue

Health Blue has made available a variety of trainings to address districts' needs which can be accessed via the following links:

- [Learn about Availity \(healthybluesc.com\)](https://healthybluesc.com)
- [Interactive Care Reviewer \(ICR\) \(healthybluesc.com\)](https://healthybluesc.com)
- [Interactive Care Reviewer \(healthybluesc.com\)](https://healthybluesc.com)

By visiting Healthy Blue's website, you can find much more information and available resources.

Enrollment

Currently there are five MCOs (i.e., Absolute Total Care, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Molina, and Select Health) to which districts may need to enroll with to receive prior authorization and reimbursement for RBHS/school based mental health services when the student's care is managed by the MCO. Claims for students whose care is managed by a MCO must be submitted to the MCO, not SCDHHS. If a student's care is managed by an MCO, the only way that the district or subcontractor will receive reimbursement for RBHS rendered to the child is if the district is enrolled with the MCO. RBHS claims are submitted to SCDHHS only if the student is not enrolled in an MCO. Districts can identify if a child is enrolled in a MCO by utilizing the [SC Medicaid Web Portal](#). Please remember that if a student's care is managed by an MCO, the district must be enrolled with the MCO and seek reimbursement for RBHS via the MCO.

MCO Assistance & Guidance Documents

The OMS webpage includes a [MCO Contact List](#) that will assist you in identifying key contacts within each MCO. The OMS' webpage also includes a [MCO Prior Authorization Guidance Sheet](#) which will assist you in identifying key information with regard to the prior authorization process and procedures. Please review both documents and follow-up with your district's assigned EA should you have any questions and/or concerns.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Clarification

In follow-up to the December 8, 2022, Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training that was offered during the QA quarterly meeting the OMS would like to again, clarify that a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) cannot refer for O&M services. Below is the list of approved LPHA's who can refer for O&M services which can be found on the [SCDE LPHA Referrals for School-based Rehabilitative Services \(SBRs\)](#) document located on the OMS webpage.

- Licensed Physician,
- Medical Doctor (M.D.),
- Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.),
- Licensed Advanced Practice Registered nurse (APRN),
- Licensed Physician Assistant (P.A.), and
- Licensed Independent Social Worker – Clinical Practice (LISW-CP).

Please remember that the health professional must be currently licensed in South Carolina and located within the South Carolina Medicaid Service Area (SCMSA), which is defined as the state of South Carolina and areas in North Carolina and Georgia within 25 miles of the South Carolina state border.

QA Review Trends

Below are common findings/deficiencies that have been frequently cited during last month's QA reviews. These areas of concern must meet Medicaid policy requirements as reflected below.

- Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS): Personnel records must include a completed and signed job application, completed and signed job description, evidence of child abuse registry checks completed prior to the start of employment and annually thereafter, and evidence of State and national sex offender registries checks completed prior to the start of employment and annually thereafter.
- RBHS CSN: The CSN must include the billing modifier that aligns with the credentials of the individual rendering the service in addition to all other required components.
- CSNs: Please make sure documentation is present to support each billed claim. Documentation must be sufficient to justify Medicaid payment, documentation must provide a clear descriptive narrative of the services provided, and the student's progress toward treatment goals must be appropriately documented in addition to all other required components.
- Individualized Health Plan (IHP) Nursing Services: The IHP must include the criteria for achievement in addition to all other required components.

Please review the [SCDHHS LEA Manual](#) and the [SBRs trainings](#) posted on the OMS webpage to ensure compliance with documentation requirements. If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Education Associate (EA).

Reminder: Districts' Internal Self-Assessment Reviews

The Rehabilitative and Related Services contract between the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the school district requires every school district to conduct a self-assessment of each program area in association with the SCDE's annual QA review. The self-assessment must consist of the following components:

- random sampling of records to include at least one record for each SBRs and RBHS rendered by the district;
- examination of records related to SDAC and SNT;
- assessment of compliance with Medicaid standards, policies and procedures;
- evaluation of credentials of staff; and
- review of the Medicaid billing operation.

The results of the district's self-assessment must be captured in the "ISA" section of the QA application underneath "Discrepancies in Services and Billing". The results must be entered into the QA application at least two (2) weeks prior to the OMS' QA review date. A summary of the findings must be submitted and/or the checklists completed for each student record must be uploaded to the QA application. If there are no discrepancies found in the records reviewed by the district, the district must complete the 'Discrepancies in Services and Billing' section as follows:

- 'Student Name'- Enter the name of the student reviewed.
- 'Service'- Identify the service reviewed from the student's record.
- 'Discrepancy Note'- Document that no discrepancies were found.
- 'Corrective Action'- Document that no corrective action is needed because no discrepancy was found.

Do not leave the 'Discrepancies in Services and Billing' section blank if no discrepancies are found. You must complete the section as noted above. Districts must complete the entire ISA and click 'Submit' at the end of the ISA. The OMS must ensure that the ISA was completed by the district, and the OMS must know the results of the review as this information must be reported to SCDHHS.

Districts can complete the ISA and enter the information into the QA application at any time as long as the information is entered at least two weeks prior to the SCDE review date.

Finance

SDAC Invoices

Seventy-Four (74) school districts have submitted SDAC invoices for the July- September 2022 quarter. The total reimbursement claimed by these districts for the quarter is \$1,142,640.32. If you have any questions, please contact Ophelia McClary at omccclary@ed.sc.gov, 843-372-2393.

Second Quarter SDAC Expenses

The updated [SDAC Finance Training](#) has been posted to the OMS webpage. The training provides information specific to the finance process and funding quarters. Please review all information, particularly the information specific to the second quarter (i.e., October, November, December - OND). Please continue to complete the Personnel Roster Cost, the Purchased Services and Supply Costs (Sec. I), the District Wide Supervision and Support Costs (Sec. II) and the District Wide Costs (Sec. III) as it applies to your district. If you need assistance with the completion of your OND'22 SDAC costs please contact Ophelia McClary at omccclary@ed.sc.gov, 843-372-2393 and Celina Fields at cfields@ed.sc.gov, 803-734-9180.

Please review the [SDAC calendar](#) on the OMS webpage to identify dates and deadlines of activities that are to be carried out each quarter. Information specific to sampling quarters and survey dates is available on the SDAC calendar. Additionally, find excluded survey dates (i.e., dates staff will not receive surveys) on the SDAC calendar.

Budget Increase Request

Districts should track SDAC budgets throughout the academic year and if needed, a budget increase can be requested of South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). SDAC invoices through July, August, September – JAS 22 have been completed and districts now have two (2) years and three (3) months (i.e., nine (9) quarters) of actual expense to compare to their budgets for the remaining quarters. To request a budget increase, you will need to complete and submit the [SDAC Contract Budget Amendment Request](#) form. The form is located on the OMS webpage. To request a copy of the form in Word format, send an email to omccclary@ed.sc.gov or cfields@ed.sc.gov.

Any budget increase requests needed for FY23 will need to be submitted to SCDHHS by February 28, 2023. Please carbon copy Fiscal Managers, Ophelia McClary at omccclary@ed.sc.gov and Celina Fields at cfields@ed.sc.gov on all requests.

School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC)

SDAC Quarter Samples

The samples for the second quarter (October, November, December – OND 22) were generated on September 29, 2022. The sample dates range from October 3, 2022, through December 16, 2022. District SDAC Coordinators should ensure that samples are completed by the participant and submit/return the completed samples daily.

Special Needs Transportation (SNT)

SNT Payments for School Year 2021-2022

- On December 15, 2022, each school district was notified via email of the reimbursement amount that the district will receive from SCDE for the academic year 2022-2023. This will be the first of the SNT payments during this academic year.
- On December 14, 2022, a memo was released to address the significant decrease in reimbursement that will be reflected in the December payment due to the delayed installation of the new SNT application which has delayed the processing of claims for academic year 2022 – 2023. The memo also informed districts that an additional payment may be made to districts during the academic year to ensure that districts receive SNT payments/revenue for services rendered as quickly as possible.

A copy of the [memo](#) can be found on the OMS webpage. If you have any concerns regarding the memo or reimbursement amount referenced in the notification letter, please reach out to Fiscal Managers, Ophelia McClary at omcclary@ed.sc.gov and Celina Fields at cfields@ed.sc.gov.

New Application

The SNT application is not operating at full capacity at this time, but some strides have been made by the SCDE's technology staff. District's SNT Coordinators may now enter the bus information under the "Bus Management" tab and the driver information under the "Driver Assignment" tab in the new SNT application. You are encouraged to begin entering this information as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, student information still shouldn't be entered at this time. The OMS will advise districts when to begin entering student information. Please do not add any student information until advised by the OMS.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

Quarterly & Bi-Monthly Meetings

Quarterly QA School District Meeting/Training

Thank you to the 60 school districts that attended the OMS QA team's quarterly meetings on December 8, 2022. The OMS encourages school districts to continue to participate in this open forum and continue to ask questions. The OMS looks forward to continuing to work alongside districts and ensuring that districts receive the assistance and guidance needed. The next QA quarterly meetings will be scheduled for **March 2023**. Meeting invitations will be sent to district Medicaid Coordinators, RBHS Coordinators, and Special Education Directors.

The quarterly meetings are open to all LEA service providers and staff (e.g., Speech Language Pathologists (SLP), Occupational Therapists (OT), Physical Therapists (PT), nurses, Medicaid Coordinators, Medicaid Billing Clerks, etc.). Any district staff deemed appropriate by the district are welcome to attend. Please submit questions and topics that you would like to be discussed prior to the scheduled meeting -

Bi-Monthly SDAC Meeting

The bi-monthly SDAC meeting was held on December 13, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. There were 28 districts in attendance. The meeting included a review of the outstanding samples for the OND – 2022 quarter. All samples for the OND – 2022 quarter must be completed by January 13, 2023. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

Bi-Monthly Special Needs Transportation (SNT) Meeting

The bi-monthly SNT meeting was held on December 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There were 41 districts in attendance. The topics included a review of the new application changes to date and the status of the application at the time of the meeting. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

The next bi-monthly meeting will be held on January 10, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The meeting will cover the new SNT application, and all changes made to date. Please make every effort to attend this meeting to ensure that you receive all important updates.

A Microsoft Teams invitation will be sent to the Medicaid and SNT 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.