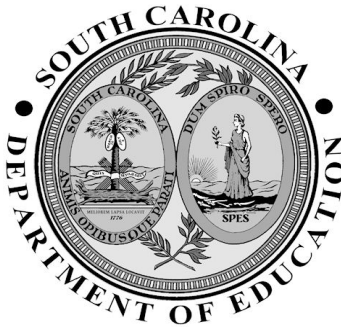


March 2023



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

Medicaid Updates

Medicaid's Annual Eligibility Reviews Resume (Effective April 1, 2023)

On February 13, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) issued a [press release](#) which stated that Medicaid annual eligibility reviews that will resume beginning April 1, 2023, after a federally mandated pause during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The standard annual review process will begin on April 1, 2023, to which Medicaid members will begin receiving notices and review forms from the SCDHHS; however, the entire review process may take as long as 12 months to which some Medicaid members will not receive notices or review forms until March 2024.

Why is this important and why should you care? Medicaid eligible students within your district are subject to annual review. If a student/family do not complete the appropriate forms or update appropriate Medicaid information as required, they may lose their Medicaid eligibility. This could be devastating and have a tremendous impact on students/families as they would no longer have healthcare coverage. This will also impact districts as districts will no longer be able to seek Medicaid reimbursement for services rendered to those previously qualified Medicaid eligible students.

I encourage you to share and notify the students, parents, and families within your district of the upcoming eligibility reviews that will begin on April 1, 2023. Your outreach could be the determining factor regarding the parents' and families' awareness of the upcoming eligibility review. Please remember that your outreach efforts and assistance with eligibility determination increases your district's chance of greater reimbursement for school district administrative claiming (SDAC) as outreach and eligibility determination activities (e.g., sending flyers) are reimbursable SDAC activities.

It is going to be more important than ever for districts to review and verify students' Medicaid eligibility regularly. Districts have always been encouraged to verify students' eligibility at least once per year, but eligibility checks may need to be conducted more frequently due to the upcoming annual eligibility reviews. Again, if students lose Medicaid eligibility, services rendered will no longer be Medicaid reimbursable (for dates of service after the eligibility termination date).

Please review the [press release](#) in its entirety. The press release includes helpful resources such as the link to the SCDHHS' Medicaid annual review web page (www.scdhhs.gov/annualreviews) and a link to the Annual Eligibility Review Update Fact Sheet. The SCDHHS will update the page with additional information as the annual review process begins.

Access and Reimbursement for Additional Speech Therapy Code (92526)

On February 16, 2023, the Office of Medicaid Services (OMS) released a memorandum which stated, "The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) speech therapy code, 92526 which is to be utilized for "the treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding" is available to school districts for Medicaid reimbursement when treatment is appropriately provided by school districts. The following applies to speech therapy code 92526:

- Frequency Limit: 1 encounter per day
- Rate: \$42.52 per encounter
- Staff Qualifications: Services must be provided by a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) or a Speech Language Pathologist- Intern (SLP-I) who is under the supervision of a SLP. Please ensure that you adhere to all licensing and training requirements set forth by the appropriate licensing and regulatory bodies/entities. Supervision and documentation requirements for speech therapy services has not changed.
- Method of Service: Medicaid only reimburses for the service when rendered in an individual setting. Medicaid does not reimburse for the service when provided in a group setting.

The fee schedule and Section 4 of the Local Education Agency Provider Manual will be updated to include this procedure code and all other relevant information. If you have questions, please contact Vanesha Perrin, Director, Office of Medicaid Services, at vrperrin@ed.sc.gov.

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.
- 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.

SCDHHS Provider Trainings

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) published a [bulletin](#) announcing [upcoming Healthy Connections Medicaid provider training opportunities that are available February 2023 – April 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.medicaidelearning.com, or call (888) 289-0709 and select option 1. Additional training resources for providers are also available online through the [Medicaid eLearning site](#).

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 the "subscribe" or "submit" button 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.

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Updates

Subcontracting for RBHS

Please remember that SCDHHS must receive a copy of the district's subcontract with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health clinic or community/private providers. As you execute new contracts or terminate contracts, that information should be reported to the SCDHHS. Only by sharing this information will the SCDHHS know when to permit billing by the subcontractor.

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.

The MCOs have or will be providing training as follows:

Molina

Molina will be carrying out training for school districts. The training will cover topics such as PA submissions and requirements, claim submissions, the credentialing and contracting process, as well as the top reasons for claim denials. All districts will receive a training invitation from Molina.

Humana Health Horizons

Humana Health Horizons will be reaching out to the 13 districts who requested training directly to schedule training dates. If your district did not respond to the OMS' email but is still in need of training, please reach out to the MCO directly to request training.

Select Health

The MCO's training was held on February 14, 2022, from 11AM – 12PM. It is the OMS' hope that all districts in need of training attended and found the information helpful.

Absolute Total Care (ATC)

Absolute Total Care provided two virtual training sessions in January. One training took place on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, from 1:00PM – 2:00 PM and the other took place on Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 1:00PM – 2:00 PM. It is the OMS' hope that all districts in need of training attended and found the information helpful.

Healthy Blue

Health Blue's trainings can be accessed via the following links:

- [Learn about Availability \(healthybluesc.com\)](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.

MCO 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)

Basic Overview of Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Training

The OMS QA conducted a Basic Overview of RBHS training on February 21, 2023 – February 24, 2023. The OMS thanks the 52 school districts that were represented during the RBHS training sessions, as well as everyone who participated in the polls during the training. The OMS would like to extend special thanks to Rachel Shomate, Medicaid/RBHS Coordinator of York 4 school district for sharing the district's RBHS journey and experience.

The OMS will be releasing training documents/information soon. The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the OMS' webpage. During the training sessions, districts had the opportunity to submit questions and/or concerns relative to RBHS. The questions received during the training sessions will be reviewed and appropriate documents will be developed and posted on the OMS' webpage if warranted. Please continue to submit questions to your district's assigned EA or the OMS at medicaidservices@ed.sc.gov.

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.

- ISA Submission: Districts must complete the entire ISA and click 'Submit' at the end of the ISA.
- Documentation Sequence: For Medicaid billing purposes, documentation must be completed in sequential order (i.e., first the referral, evaluation/reevaluation, and then the IEP).
- Signature Date: All documentation must include the signature date.
- Individualized Education Program (IEP): The IEP goal(s) must specify the specific service (i.e., OT/PT) when the area of need is identified as motor sensory/gross motor. OT/PT must be captured in the narrative box when writing the student's goal(s).
- Service Plan Development: SPD is an RBHS and can only be utilized for the development of the Individualized Plan of Care (IPOC). Therefore, reimbursement for SPD must only be sought for the development of the IPOC.
- Clinical Service Notes (CSNs): Please make sure the staff's title is included on the CSNs in addition to all other required components.
- Progress Summary: The completion of the 90-day progress summary is not a reimbursable activity. Therefore, no billed claim should include time spent completing a 90-day progress summary.
- Electronic Signatures: SCDHHS signature requirements have not changed, and no exceptions regarding required signatures have been made. Documents must contain a physical or electronic signature which must be present on all required documents. SCDHHS does accept electronic signatures that are derived within the electronic health system that is being utilized. Both of ENRICH's electronic signature options (i.e., drawn and type) are permitted by the SCDHHS when signing applicable student documentation within the EHR. Any documents that do not include required signatures are subject to recoupment of funds for Medicaid services billed.

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).

Finance

SDAC Budget Review Process

On February 16, 2023, a memorandum was released by the OMS regarding the SDAC budget process for the FY 2024 – 2026 SCDHHS contract period. Districts are encouraged to review the memorandum and accompanying guidance document. Should you have questions or concerns, please follow-up with the appropriate contacts identified within the memorandum.

Additionally, a friendly e-mail reminder was sent to school districts on February 22, 2023, offering assistance to districts regarding the preparation of the SDAC budgets for the FY 2024 – 2026 SCDHHS contract. Assistance from the OMS is still available should your district need help preparing the budget. Please contact Ophelia McClary by email at omcclary@ed.sc.gov or Celina Fields at cfields@ed.sc.gov with any questions you may have.

First Quarter SDAC Invoices

The OMS has submitted all districts' SDAC first quarter invoices to SCDHHS. If you have not received payment for the first quarter (i.e. July, August, September – JAS 22) please notify OMS staff, Celina Fields by email at cfields@ed.sc.gov or Ophelia McClary at omcclary@ed.sc.gov. The OMS staff will follow-up with the SCDHHS in reference to your payment.

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 22). Please continue to complete the Personnel Roster Cost, Purchased Services and Supply Costs (Sec. I), District Wide Supervision and Support Costs (Sec. II) and District Wide Costs (Sec. III) within the SDAC application as it applies to your district. If you need assistance with the completion of your OND 22 SDAC costs please contact Ophelia McClary by email at omcclary@ed.sc.gov or by phone at 843-372-2393 or contact Celina Fields by email at cfields@ed.sc.gov or by phone at 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.

School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC)

SDAC Quarter Samples

Districts' SDAC Coordinators, are encouraged to continue working with the district's survey participants on completing outstanding SDAC samples for the third quarter (January, February, March – JFM 23).

Special Needs Transportation (SNT)

New Application

The new SNT Application is fully functional. District's SNT Coordinators may enter the bus information under the "Bus Management" tab, driver information under the "Driver Assignment" tab, and student information under the "Student Information" tab in the new SNT application. SNT Coordinators may also log the attendance under the "Ridership" Tab in the new SNT application. You are encouraged to begin entering this information as soon as possible.

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

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 are scheduled for March 23, 2023. There will be two sessions available for districts to attend. During the quarterly meetings, the OMS will conduct training on Audiology and Speech services. Meeting invitations were sent to districts' 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. Your questions and suggestions must be submitted to your district's assigned EA or the OMS at medicaidservices@ed.sc.gov prior to March 14, 2023.

Bi-Monthly SDAC Meeting

The bi-monthly SDAC meeting was held on February 9, 2023. The meeting focused on ensuring the participants complete samples timely, the procedure for handling inactive participants after the calendar date for participant updates for a quarter, and the procedure for disapproved samples.

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

Bi-Monthly SNT Meeting

The bi-monthly SNT meeting was held on February 9, 2023. The meeting focused on the Medicaid guidance around ridership logs, the sign off attendance functionality, and manually adding students.

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

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.