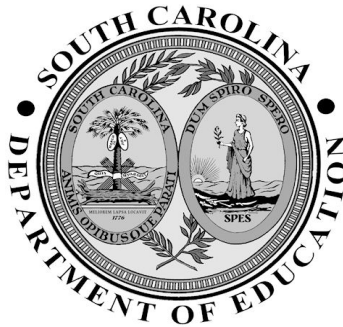


June 2024



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

Medicaid Updates

Medicaid Reimbursement for Evaluations and/or Reevaluations Completed by a SLP-I/SLP-CF

The Office of Medicaid Services (OMS) released a [memo](#) on April 30, 2024, which informed districts that the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) permits reimbursement for speech evaluations and/or reevaluations completed by a Speech Language Pathologist- Intern (SLP-I)/Speech Language Pathologist- Clinical Fellow (SLP-CF). Please review the document in its entirety and reach out to your district's assigned Education Associate (EA) should you have any questions or concerns.

Required Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Provider Training

Per Article III, Section C of the districts' RBHS contract with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), all providers rendering services are required to utilize the South Carolina School Behavioral Health Academy, made available by SCDHHS and the University of South Carolina School of Psychology, to enhance the school employees' understanding of behavioral health and ways to better support students and families. Please remember that all clinical staff rendering school based RBHS are required to complete the Tier 3 Mental Health Intervention in Schools training within one year of hire. Please ensure that district staff and subcontractors who are rendering services to students within the district have completed the training within one year of hire.

District Surveys

Thank you to all districts that participated in the Special Needs Transportation (SNT), School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC), and Quality Assurance (QA) surveys. Your feedback was helpful and as a result, the OMS would like to provide the following clarification, share the following reminders and provide updates for the coming school year:

Quality Assurance

- Updates

- The information required for the Internal Self-Assessment (ISA) has been simplified for the districts' use. The following fields were removed from the 'Billing Contact' tab: first and last name, billing entity, and total number of students receiving services. The following fields were removed from the 'District Contact' tab: the job title and middle initial fields. The entire 'Program Integrity' section was removed.
- The OMS will incorporate in-person trainings in addition to virtual trainings during the 2024 – 2025 school year. The OMS anticipates that the first in-person training will be held in September 2024. More details will be provided once all information is finalized.
- Clarifications
 - When completing the ISA, the contact and contract information should be for the current year. The students chosen for the ISA should be for the year in review (i.e., past year).
 - The requirement that two random files be provided onsite is not mandated by the OMS. The districts' SCDHHS contract requires that the OMS obtain and review at least two (2) random files upon arrival (in addition to the files pulled by the district prior to SCDE arrival).
 - The Follow-Up Report is submitted to the district after the exit conference so that any issues can be addressed, or errors can be corrected prior to sending the report to the district. Extensive technical assistance is required to close, correct, and resubmit a Follow-Up Report once it has already been submitted to the district within the application. Therefore, the Follow-Up Report is submitted once the exit conference has taken place. It is important that the district addresses any concerns and reconcile (if feasible) during the exit conference.
 - During the QA review, only the credentials for the staff that have provided services to the students identified on the student list are required. If the same staff provided services to multiple students, the staff's credentials are only required to be submitted once. The staff credentials check (e.g., LLR license, SCDHHS Exclusion Check, Federal Exclusion Check, etc.) for all staff may be submitted as one file versus including each staff's credentials in each student's file.
- Reminders
 - Districts have six (6) options for to submit documentation for the QA review: 1) Upload documents into the QA Application, 2) Mail documents to the OMS, 3) Fax documents, 4) Provide hard copies to the reviewer onsite, 5) Upload documents to a jump drive, or 6) the EA may scan and upload the documents while onsite. These options are also outlined in the [School District's QA Preparation Guide](#) and included in the 30-day email notification. Each EA will verify the method that the files will be provided ahead of time for preparation and planning purposes.
 - The OMS intends to continue conducting annual QA reviews of school districts. The OMS conducts annual QA reviews to prevent the district from having to conduct the review themselves. Per the districts' SCDHHS contract, if the OMS does not conduct a review, the district is responsible for conducting their own QA review, which requires a review of at least 10 records per service.
 - The OMS makes every effort to keep districts informed of changes to LEA policy and procedures via the monthly newsletter, quarterly meetings, and memos; however, districts are responsible for remaining abreast of policy updates and changes themselves. As requested, and shared by the OMS previously, districts are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the SCDHHS' bulletins and refer to the LEA Services Provider Manual's change control record regularly to remain

abreast of changes and updates. Districts' Medicaid Coordinator(s) should contact the district's assigned EA for guidance related to subscribing to the SCDHHS newsletter or with any questions or concerns regarding the LEA Services Provider Manual's change control record.

- The QA Application includes both edit and delete buttons for your convenience which were implemented during the 2023-2024 review year.
- Previously district staff reported not receiving automated emails from the QA Application. The QA Application automated emails for notifications error has been resolved and district staff should be receiving all notifications from the QA Application such as:
 - Review Schedule Date,
 - ISA Reminder,
 - ISA Overdue, if applicable,
 - QA Review Cancellation, if applicable,
 - DSA Reminder, if applicable,
 - DSA Overdue, if applicable,
 - Follow-Up Report Submission(s),
 - Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Submission,
 - CAP Returned, if applicable, and
 - CAP Acceptance
- We encourage all users to continue reporting issues and error messages as they occur so the issues can be reported to Information Technology (IT).
- To ensure that districts understand how to complete the ISA section of the QA Application, the OMS carried out the following during 2023: 1) Provided training to districts on July 24th, 25th, and 26th, using the ISA Navigation Tool, and included a live demonstration of the new QA Application to which all districts were invited. To ensure that your district completes the ISA section of the QA Application correctly, please review the [ISA Navigation Tool](#) training that is posted on the OMS webpage. Should you have questions or need assistance navigating the QA Application, please reach out to your district's assigned EA.
- If your district has any questions or concerns regarding the OMS checklist, please be sure to reach out to your district's assigned EA as soon as possible and prior to your district's annual QA review. When the checklists are posted to the OMS webpage districts are notified via the OMS newsletter (see [September 2023 Newsletter](#)) and are encouraged to review the checklists and contact the district's assigned EA with any questions or concerns. The OMS will offer the same opportunity for the checklists that will be posted for the 2024 – 2025 school year. If districts have questions or concerns after the checklists are posted, the district may reach out to the assigned EA with any feedback, questions, and/or concerns.

SDAC

- Reminders
 - Sample notification and completion timeframes are in accordance with the guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [manual](#) dated May 18, 2023. The CMS's policy limits notifying the district of the Random Moment Sample (RMS), participant name, and the date/time of the RMS to two-business days prior to receiving the RMS. The CMS policy also requires the sample to be completed within two-business days after the RMS date and time. The OMS has no authority to increase the notification period or timeframe to complete the sample(s).

- Participant training is only required once, and the training date typically carries forward for active participants year to year. Participants are required to receive training when:
 - The participant is new to the program in the school district.
 - The participant is returning to the program after a school year or more gap in participation.
 - The program has significant changes (e.g. CMS guidance changes, SDAC Application changes)
 - The district coordinator determines the participant does not understand the program to adequately complete a RMS.
 - With the implementation of the new SDAC Application for the 2024-2025 school year, all participants will need to be trained on the new response/activity codes and how to navigate the new SDAC Application. All participants will need to sign an attestation from and the SDAC coordinator will need to update the training date in the new SDAC Application confirming the participants have been trained.
- Updates
 - The OMS will review the districts participant roster and ensure all participants have access to the SDAC Application before the sample quarter to limit issues with accessing the sample in a timely manner.
 - The OMS will move to quarterly meetings for school year 2024-2025.
 - The new SDAC Application will have the following enhancements:
 - The entry of duplicate participants will not be allowed. Users will receive an error message when trying to load a duplicate.
 - The response/activity selections have been updated and new response/activity selections added to aide participants in completing the RMS.
 - The addition of features that allow districts to upload salary and fringe benefits directly into the SDAC Application from their accounting systems.

SNT

- Reminders
 - The SNT Application provides two options for printing the Ridership logs to provide to the bus drivers weekly:
 - Individual log printing – The user can select to print each bus log individually each week by selecting the ‘Print Single Ridership Log’ tab in the SNT Application.
 - Multiple log printing – The user can select to print all bus logs each week by selecting the ‘Print Multiple Ridership Logs’ tab in the SNT Application. Users should ensure the print setting is not on two-sided to avoid two bus logs printing on the same piece of paper.
 - The SNT Application is set for the students’ first name to appear before the students’ last name in all areas. The manner in which the students’ name would be captured in the SNT Application (i.e., first name first) was discussed during a quarterly meeting and most districts in attendance agreed and supported that the first name/last name order was the most effective way for the drivers to find a student on the log. To be consistent, the entire Application appears in first name order. Please ensure that users are printing the log from the SNT Application for drivers’ use to ensure that the list and naming order is consistent with the SNT Application. For district convenience, all ‘search’ functionality in the SNT Application works by first or last name.
- Updates

- The SNT Application is being updated to include a 'select all' for ridership by day (AM/PM) in addition to the current 'select all' for the week.
- The OMS will be updating all training material to include more robust information on changing buses during the school year.
- The OMS will be working with two school districts this year to implement a solution to utilize Traversa by school year 2025-2026.

District and Entity Information Management (DEIM) System

Please ensure that your district's contact information for program leads (e.g., Medicaid Coordinator, SDAC Coordinator, SNT Coordinator, RBHS Coordinator, etc.) are updated in DEIM. School districts are responsible for updating information in DEIM at the beginning of each new school year and throughout the school year as needed. The DEIM 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 (WAC).

Extended Telehealth Flexibility

On Thursday, March 21, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released a [bulletin](#) announcing a further extension of telehealth flexibilities issued during the COVID-19 federal public health emergency (PHE). Previous telehealth flexibility for school-based services has now been extended by SCDHHS through Dec. 31, 2024. This extension aligns with a similar policy announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that extended telehealth flexibilities issued during the COVID-19 federal PHE for Medicare providers through Dec. 31, 2024.

Please review the SCDHHS bulletin [24-010](#) in its entirety to ensure that you are in compliance with Medicaid's requirements. Please reach out to your district's assigned EA should you have any questions and/or concerns.

SCDHHS Provider Trainings

On Thursday, May 23, 2024 the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) published a [bulletin](#) announcing upcoming Healthy Connections Medicaid provider training opportunities that are available June 2024 – August 2024. Training topics include Medicaid Basics, Comprehensive Web Tool, Overview of Claim-level Adjustments and Third-Party Liability (TPL), and Maximus Managed Care Enrollment Trainings. To schedule a training, please email providertrainings@maximus.com. If you have questions, please contact Michelle LeMoine at (803) 834-9956 or MichelleWLeMoine@maximus.com. To register for a workshop, please visit the Medicaid eLearning site, www.medicaidlearning.com, or call the Provider Service Center (PSC) at (888) 289-0709 and select option 1. Additional training resources for providers are also available online through the Medicaid eLearning site.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Districts' Quality Assurance Review (QAR)

Per the districts' RBHS contract with the SCDHHS, "The Provider shall be solely responsible for the performance of any subcontractor." As previously communicated by the SCDHHS and SCDE, districts are responsible for conducting a quality assurance review (QAR) of the private Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Service (RBHS) provider(s) with whom the district subcontracts to render RBHS within the school district. The SCDHHS issued guidance on November 21, 2023, regarding QAR expectations and requirements of school districts within the advisory [statement](#) located on the OMS [webpage](#).

Within the advisory statement you will find that item #5 advises that the subcontractor submit their corrective action plan (CAP) to the district, the SCDHHS, and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). The OMS' general email account, MedicaidServices@ed.sc.gov should be utilized to share the subcontractor's CAP with the SCDE and email address behavioralhealth@scdhhs.gov should be utilized to share the CAP with the SCDHHS. Please be sure to share this information with your subcontractor(s) and ensure that both agencies (i.e., SCDHHS and SCDE) receive the CAP.

Please note that the guidance within the advisory statement is specific to subcontracted private, RBHS providers. Please remember that QA reviews are not required of subcontracted RBHS rendered by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH). Please reach out to your assigned EA should you have any questions or concerns.

End of Review Year

The QA Team would like to thank each district for their participation during the 2023-2024 review year. The OMS would also like to thank you for your feedback during the review process.

In preparation for the 2024 – 2025 school year and QARs, the OMS will carry out the following over the summer:

- Review and update the QA process, if necessary
- Meet with the SCDHHS to discuss and advocate for policy changes
- Update QA checklists and obtain approval from the SCDHHS
- Update trainings and other forms present on the OMS webpage
- Update the Internal Self-Assessment section of the QA Application

Should you need any assistance, guidance, or training over the summer do not hesitate to reach out to your district's assigned EA.

Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The OMS QA has posted the OT/PT FAQs from the October training sessions on the OMS [webpage](#). All responses are based on services the district intends to bill Medicaid for reimbursement. Each example is dependent on the billed dates of service and may not be applicable to all scenarios as each scenario may be different. Please reach out to your district's assigned EA should you have any questions or concerns.

QA Opportunities for Improvement

As of May 1, 2024, the OMS' quality assurance team has conducted all 2022-2023 QA reviews. Below are common findings/deficiencies that have been frequently identified during the 2022- 2023 review year:

- Signature Sheet: The signature sheet must include the provider's name, signature, and initials.
- Progress Summary: Progress summaries must be completed at least every three months and include all required components (i.e., student's attendance, progress towards treatment goals, establish the continued/discontinued need for treatment, be signed titled and dated by the therapist, and co-signed by supervising therapist, if applicable).
- Special Needs Transportation (SNT): Error corrections must be made in accordance with the LEA manual policy and procedure requirements.

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 district's assigned Education Associate (EA).

Finance

The OMS SNT payment to school districts of \$725,820.76 was made on June 22, 2024. The revenue code is 1930 and the sub-fund code is 800. Please check your monthly payments from the SCDE finance department for this payment. Thank you for participating in the SNT program.

School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC)

SDAC New Application

The new SDAC Application will be implemented on June 15, 2024. District coordinators should complete review of the current participant listing and inactivate any duplicate participants, participants no longer with the district, and participants no longer eligible for the program due to job change or salary being 100% federally funded. All active participants will be copied over to the new SDAC Application on June 15, 2024.

OMS will begin training the district coordinators on the new SDAC Application in July 2024. The training will be rolled out to districts based on the districts SY start date. Training materials will also be added to the website no later than July 12, 2024.

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

Special Needs Transportation (SNT)

SNT Application

The districts' input of the ridership log data was reviewed by the OMS during May. All districts received an email with information concerning missing logs from July 2023 through May 2024. Please review and key any missing logs to ensure optimal reimbursement for transportation claims.

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

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly QA District Meeting/Training

The next QA quarterly meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2024. There will be two sessions available for districts to attend. During the quarterly meetings, training will cover how to navigate the Internal Self- Assessment (ISA) section of the QA Application. Meeting invitations will be sent to the DEIM assigned Medicaid Coordinators, Medicaid Billing Clerk, and RBHS Coordinators.

The quarterly meetings are open to all LEA service providers and staff (e.g., Medicaid Coordinators, Medicaid Billing Clerks, etc.). Any district staff deemed appropriate by the district are welcome to attend. If you have any questions reach out to your district's assigned EA.

School Districts' QA Preparation Guide Overview

The OMS QA will be hosting an overview of the School Districts' QA Preparation Guide for the upcoming review year. The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2024. There will be two sessions available for districts to attend. The guide will be emailed to districts prior to the meeting. Meeting invitations will be sent to the DEIM assigned Medicaid Coordinators and RBHS Coordinators.

Monthly SDAC Meeting

The monthly SDAC meeting was held on May 15, 2024. There were 61 SDAC Coordinators representing 58 districts in attendance for the May meeting. The meeting included a demo of the new SDAC Application. Thanks to all that were in attendance. This meeting will move to quarterly with the new SY.

OMS will begin training the district coordinators on the new SDAC Application in July 2024. The training will be rolled out to districts based on the districts SY start date. Training materials will also be added to the website no later than July 12, 2024.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ronette Weeks by email at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov or by phone at (803) 734-3913 for assistance.

Monthly SNT Meetings

The monthly SNT meeting was held on May 15, 2024. There were 57 SNT Coordinators representing 52 districts in attendance for the May meeting. The meeting included a review of FAQs and an open forum to discuss any SNT issues. Thanks to all that were in attendance. This meeting will move to quarterly with the new SY.

The next meeting will be scheduled for August 2024. The meeting invitation and link will be sent two weeks prior to the meeting. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Ronette Weeks by email at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov or by phone at (803) 734-3913 for assistance.

TELL US

What topics would you like us to address in the monthly newsletter? It is our goal to support our 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.