

September 2024



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

Welcome Back ... ALLOW US TO REINTRODUCE OURSELVES!

The academic year 2024 – 2025 has arrived, and the Office of Medicaid Service (OMS) is prepared to assist districts in all things Medicaid! The OMS looks forward to working alongside districts to ensure that services needed by students throughout South Carolina can be provided and reimbursed by Medicaid while ensuring that districts adhere to Medicaid policy and procedures. A few of the OMS' priorities this year are:

- Full implementation and use of the new School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) Application.
- Rollout of telehealth guidance and implementation assistance (i.e., connecting districts to community resources/subcontractors, clarifying Medicaid policy, hiring Program Manager).
- Monitor district utilization of services and follow-up as swiftly as possible to address any issues identified.
- Identify when and why districts are not maximizing reimbursement for services rendered (as permitted by Medicaid) and educate districts.
- Advocate for the exemption of third-party liability (TPL) for all school-based services.
- Advocate for a special needs transportation (SNT) rate increase.

There have been staff changes in the OMS. The OMS staff now consists of the following persons and roles:

- Vanesha Perrin, Director
- Kareyah Harrison, Administrative Specialist (Intern)
- Ophelia McClary, Fiscal Manager
- Marquita Taylor, Fiscal Manager
- Anissa Cruse, Education Associate/Quality Assurance Reviewer
- Thomas Douglas, Education Associate Quality Assurance Reviewer
- Maureen Ryan, Education Associate/Quality Assurance Reviewer
- Sylvia Tutt, Education Associate/Quality Assurance Reviewer
- Ruth Vazquez, Education Associate/Quality Assurance Reviewer
- Ronette Weeks, Program Coordinator (School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) & Special Needs Transportation (SNT) programs)

Medicaid Updates

2024 School Mental Health Survey

A 2024 School Mental Health Survey is forthcoming which is a close replica of the 2023 School Mental Health Survey distributed to districts. The intent of the 2024 survey is to continue to obtain data to evaluate the utilization of Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) and providers. Each district's participation in completing the survey will continue to help inform and guide the SCDHHS regarding the use and need of RBHS in the school settings.

Administrative and Billing Provider Manual Updates

On June 18, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) released a Medicaid [bulletin](#) to inform providers that the Administrative and Billing Manual will be updated and clarify specific policy effective July 1, 2024. Among many other changes, one change to note is the record retention policy for fiscal and health records which must be retained for a minimum period of four years after the last payment was made for services rendered. The bulletin also includes guidance regarding health records documentation, the definition of 'medical necessity,' and the appeal process. Please be sure to review the updated Administrative and Billing Manual once it is released.

Payment Error Rate Measurement Requests

On June 18, 2024, the SCDHHS released a Medicaid [bulletin](#) which states that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has informed the SCDHHS that South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid providers will participate in the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program for state fiscal year 2025. This means that school districts are subject to inclusion and participation in a PERM review.

For those that are not aware, CMS' PERM program was developed to measure the accuracy of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) payments made by states (e.g., South Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services payments to SC providers). Each state is reviewed once every three years. Samples of claims with paid dates of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, will be subject to review (i.e., any Medicaid payments from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, made to SC Medicaid providers by the SCDHHS is subject to review to ensure that the SCDHHS made appropriate and accurate payments to SC providers).

Please review the bulletin in its entirety for complete understanding and reach out to your district's assigned Education Associate (EA) with any questions or concerns that you may have. Should your district receive a request to participate in the 2025 PERM review, please reach out to your district's assigned EA, and review the [PERM guidance](#) (i.e., training and checklist) available on the OMS webpage if assistance from the OMS is needed.

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Pathology Rate Increases and Policy Updates

On June 17, 2024, the SCDHHS released a Medicaid [bulletin](#) which identifies a rate increase for specific Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Speech Therapy (ST) services that are effective July 1, 2024. The bulletin also includes policy guidance specific to co-treatment. Co-treatment is defined as two practitioners from different professional disciplines (i.e., OT, PT, ST) effectively addressing their treatment goals while the patient is

engaged in a single therapy session. The co-treatment policy is not inclusive of services provided by teachers to address education related goals that are not medically necessary and are not reimbursable by Medicaid.

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services Providers and Licensed Independent Practitioners

On June 14, 2024, the SCDHHS released a Medicaid [bulletin](#) to address increased reimbursement rates for core rehabilitative behavioral health services provided by **private**, master's degree-level practitioners and licensed psychologists through the Medicaid State Plan. This bulletin **does not** impact the school districts' enhanced rate fee schedule.

Addition of New Covered Autism Spectrum Disorder Services

On June 12, 2024, the SCDHHS released a Medicaid [bulletin](#) stating that to support greater access to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) services, enhance the state's provider network and ensure services are delivered effectively, the SCDHHS will add coverage of additional ASD services effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2024; these services will complete the available ASD service array. The new covered services announced in the bulletin will be added to the ASD Services provider manual and ASD fee schedule available on SCDHHS' website by July 1, 2024.

As districts have expressed interest in enrolling as a Medicaid ASD provider in the past, please ensure that you are aware of these additional services that can be provided and reimbursed via Medicaid should you decide to enroll. Please be sure to review the [Medicaid ASD Service Manual](#) located on SCDHHS's website and the [SCDHHS ASD Fee Schedule](#) for enrollment guidance.

New Documentation Sequence Guidance

The OMS has consulted with SCDHHS regarding the sequence of documentation for the referral, evaluation, and treatment plan. After discussion, it was determined documentation is good for 365 days and obtaining updated documents (i.e., referral, evaluation, or treatment plan) does not cancel the previous documentation. Districts must ensure there is no gap in documentation.

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 (SC SBHA), 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. The training is titled "Growing Your Tier 3 Supports" on the SC SBHA [webpage](#). 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 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.) is updated in the DEIM system. School districts are responsible for updating information in the DEIM system at the beginning of each new school year and throughout the school year as needed. The DEIM contact lists are used for all communication from the OMS. 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).

SCDHHS Provider Trainings

On Monday , August 26, 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 September 2024 – November 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.medicaidelearning.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)

Upcoming School Year

Please see the following guidance for the upcoming school year regarding the OMS' QA process and components:

- Checklist Updates –There have been changes to the checklists for the upcoming school year. Those changes are currently being reviewed by the SCDHHS for approval. 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, in July 2024, districts were notified of their review dates. Although districts were notified of their review dates in July 2024, districts will still receive their 30-day notification email which includes 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. You can begin completing the ISA portion of the review immediately.
- Onsite Reviews - The OMS QA will be conducting onsite reviews for the upcoming school year. There will be no desk reviews. Trainings - OMS trainings are being finalized, and districts will be notified when trainings are available on the OMS' webpage for review.
- Third - Party - Liability (TPL) – OMS is in the process of obtaining TPL letters for the 2023-2024 school year and will post the letters on the website upon their submission to the OMS.

- Medicaid Coordinator Resources – A list of Medicaid resources can be found on the OMS webpage under “[Additional Resources](#)”. Districts should utilize the resources provided to assist with training/onboarding Medicaid Coordinators hired by the district. Please reach out to your district’s assigned Education Associate (EA) should you have any questions or concerns.

OMS Forms and Documentation Updates

The following forms have been updated:

- Behavior Modification Plan Form (BMP)
- Diagnostic Assessment Form (DA)
- Individual Health Plan (IHP)
- Psychological Testing Referral Form (PTE)
- 90 Day Progress Summary
- Consolidation Checklist
- CAP Checklist
- ISA Checklist

The following forms were created:

- District Self-Assessment (DSA) Checklist
- DSA Summary Report

Finance

School District Administrative Claiming (SDAC) Annual Fee Letters

SDAC annual fee letters have been issued. Please ensure that it has been received for your district. The letters were sent via email to CFO's and SDAC coordinators. If you notice that the fee letter was not received for your district, please contact Ophelia McClary at omccclary@ed.sc.gov or 843-372-2393. You may also contact Marquita Taylor at mstaylor@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-9180.

Follow up emails have been sent to a few districts who have either not yet entered SDAC cost data for 4th Quarter (AMJ '24) or have not returned their districts signed invoice. The OMS would like to be successful in having all districts claim their SDAC funding, so there is still time to enter the district's data and submit the district's invoice. Please be sure to email the signed invoices to Ophelia McClary and Marquita Taylor. Please also email Ophelia and Marquita if your district's cost data has been entered and you are awaiting your district's invoice to be generated.

Special Needs Transportation (SNT)

SNT Application

The state bus numbers and driver names for the 2024-2025 school year have been added to the SNT Application. Districts may begin inputting information into the Bus Management and Driver Assignment tabs of the Application. The student table on the Student Information tab will update when the PowerSchool information for the school year is released by the school district. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov

SNT Driver Training and Attestation Form

All SNT drivers are required to complete the SNT Driver Training annually and sign an attestation form showing successful completion of the training. The [SNT Driver Training](#) and the [Driver Attestation](#) form for the 2024-2025 school year have been added to the OMS webpage. After the initial training of a driver (at the start of the school year or throughout the school year), the district's SNT Coordinators should scan and email all the completed driver attestation forms to Ronette Weeks at rmweeks@ed.sc.gov.

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings

First Quarter QA Meeting

Thank you to the 61 districts that attended the first quarter QA meeting in-person on August 26, 2024. The OMS hopes that you found the speakers, meeting, and training sessions informative and that you were able to connect with Medicaid Coordinators from other districts. The OMS appreciates your time, effort, and participation. The feedback provided via the surveys submitted is invaluable as it will help to improve and shape the OMS.

The next QA meeting will be held December 2, 2024. Meeting invitations will be 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 to your district's assigned EA or the OMS at medicaidservices@ed.sc.gov prior to the scheduled meeting.

Quarterly SDAC and SNT Meeting/Training

The OMS will host a statewide in-person training for SDAC Coordinators, SNT Coordinators, and school district business officials on September 25, 2024. The full day training will focus on both the financial aspects and program administration of SDAC and SNT programs. The appropriate SDAC and SNT Coordinators to attend the training have been identified by all districts. In addition to the SDAC & SNT Coordinators, one (1) school business official (finance) has been requested to attend per district. The business officials that will be attending have been identified by the districts. The attendee list for the training has been finalized. Additions or substitutions will not be permitted. Should you have any questions, 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 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.