

October 28, 2024

Wanda Pontoo, Administrative Coordinator, SCDE
1429 Senate Street, Suite 702
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Pontoo:

Enclosed you will find Excellus Health Plan's response to your recent request related to healthcare insurance coverage to students ages 3-21 throughout South Carolina in school-based settings. Excellus has reviewed the list of services and responded to the best of our ability.

We have considered all services as outlined in your letter. While the Health Plan covers most of these services in a school-based setting, we have the following comments regarding additional conditions that must be met for coverage:

- 1. Physical Therapy:** These service codes may be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review. These services would also not be covered under a commercial insurance plan if they are rendered by the school district pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- 2. Occupational Therapy:** These services codes may be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review. These services would also not be covered under a commercial insurance plan if they are rendered by the school district pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- 3. Audiology Services:** These service codes may be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review.
- 4. Nursing Services:** These services may be covered under the commercial health plan in a clinic-based setting within a school.
- 5. Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)/Mental Health or Additional Counseling Services (e.g., psychotherapy, crisis management, etc.):** These service codes may be covered in a school-based setting.

6. Speech Services: These service codes could be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review. These services would also not be covered under a commercial insurance plan if they are rendered by the school district pursuant to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

7. Orientation and Mobility Services: These service codes may be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review.

8. Psychological Testing and Evaluation: These service codes may be covered in a school-based setting; however, they are subject to prior authorization requirements and medical necessity review.

9. COVID-19 Testing: These services would be covered under the commercial health plan; however, COVID-19 testing for those who do not have symptoms, but who are required to have testing by their employer, school or a government or public health agency, is not covered in accordance with the Federal Tri-Agency guidance.

10. COVID-19 Vaccine Administration: These services would be covered under the commercial health plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and hope this will assist with the timely processing of claims for students within the state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Bethany Santora
Compliance Program Administrator

OFFICE OF MEDICAID SERVICES
2024 – 2025 SCHOOL-BASED SERVICE SHEET
THIRD-PARTY CARRIER SURVEY

Third Party Carrier Name: _____

Audiology Services				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
92552	Pure tone audiometry (threshold); air	-	X	
92557	Comprehensive audiometry threshold evaluation and speech recognition (92553 and 92556 combined)	-	X	
92557	Comprehensive audiometry threshold evaluation and speech recognition (92553 and 92556 combined)	52	X	
92567	Tympanometry (impedance testing)	-	X	
92568	Acoustic reflex testing; threshold	-	X	
Audiology - Hearing Aid Examination and Selection				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
92584	Electrocochleography	-	X	
92590	Hearing Aid Examination and Selection; Monaural	-	X	
92592	Hearing Aid Check; Monaural	-	X	
92592	Hearing Aid Re-Check; Monaural	52	X	
92626	Evaluation of Auditory Rehabilitation Status, First Hour	-	X	
V5011	Fitting/Orientation/ Checking of Hearing Aid	-	X	
V5090	Dispensing Fee; Unspecified Hearing Aid	-	X	
V5275	Ear Impression, Each- (One-Bill 1 Unit)	-	X	
V5275	Ear Impression, Each - (Both-Bill 2 Units)	-	X	

Occupational Therapy Evaluation				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
97165	Occupational therapy evaluation - low complexity – 30 minutes	GO	×	
97166	Occupational therapy evaluation - moderate complexity – 45 minutes	GO	×	
97167	Occupational therapy evaluation - high complexity – 60 minutes	GO	×	
97168	Re-evaluation of occupational therapy established plan of care	GO	×	
Occupational Therapy				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
97530	Therapeutic activities, direct (one-on-one) patient contact by the provider (use of dynamic activities to improve functional performance)	GO	×	
97150	Therapeutic procedure(s), group (2 or more individuals)	GO	×	
Occupational Therapy - Fabrication of Orthotic				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
L3808	Wrist hand finger orthosis (WHFO), rigid without joints, may include soft interface material; straps, custom fabricated, includes fitting and adjustment	-	×	
L2999	Lower extremity orthoses, not otherwise specified (NOS)	-	×	
L3999	Upper limb orthosis, not otherwise specified (NOS)	-	×	
Physical Therapy- Evaluation				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
97161	Physical therapy evaluation – low complexity - evaluation typically 20 minutes	GP	×	
97162	Physical therapy evaluation – moderate complexity - evaluation typically 30 minutes	GP	×	
97163	Physical therapy evaluation – high complexity - evaluation typically 60 minutes	GP	×	
97164	Re-evaluation of physical therapy established plan of care- 20 minutes	GP	×	

Physical Therapy

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
97110	Individual physical therapy – Therapeutic procedure, one or more areas, each 15 minutes; therapeutic exercises to develop strength and endurance, range of motion and flexibility	GP	X	
97150	Group physical therapy. Therapeutic procedure(s) (Group of 2 or more individuals)	GP	X	

Speech Evaluation

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
92521	Evaluation of speech fluency (e.g., stuttering, cluttering)	-	X	
92522	Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria);	-	X	
92523	Evaluation of speech sound production (e.g., articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria); with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (e.g., receptive and expressive language)	-	X	
92524	Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance	-	X	
92610	Evaluation of oral and pharyngeal swallowing function	-	X	
S9152	Re-evaluation of speech, language, voice, communications, and/or auditory processing	-	X	

Speech Therapy

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
92507	Individual Speech Therapy-Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication and/or auditory processing disorder.	-	X	
92508	Group Speech Therapy - Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication and/or auditory processing disorder; group, two or more individuals	-	X	
92526	Treatment of swallowing dysfunction and/or oral function for feeding	-	X	

Telehealth

(formerly known as Telemedicine)

Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
Q3014	Telehealth – Originating Site Facility Fee	-	X	

Diagnostic Assessment				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
90791	Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation without Medical Services - Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment- Initial	HO	X	
		AH		
H0031	Mental Health Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment - Follow-up	HO	X	
		AH		
Behavioral Health Screening				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
H0002	Behavioral Health Screening	AH	X	
		HO		
		HN		
Psychological Testing and Evaluation Assessment				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
96130	Psychological Testing Evaluation – First Hour	-	X	
96131	Psychological Testing and Evaluation – Next Hour	-	X	
96136	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring	-	X	
96137	Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring	-	X	
Service Plan Development				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
H0032	Service Plan Development by Non-physician	AH	X	
		HO	X	
		HN	X	

99366	Service Plan Development with Client/Family	-	×	
99367	Service Plan Development without Client/Family	-	×	
Psychotherapy Services				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
90832	Individual Psychotherapy - Face- to-Face for 30 minutes	AH	×	
		HO		
90834	Individual Psychotherapy - Face- to-Face for 45 minutes per session	AH	×	
		HO		
90837	Individual Psychotherapy - Face- to-Face – 60 minutes per session	AH	×	
		HO		
90853	Group Psychotherapy - Hour session	AH	×	
		HO		
90849	Multiple Family Group Psychotherapy - Hour session	AH	×	
		HO		
90846	Family Psychotherapy - without Client - Hour session	AH	×	
		HO		
90847	Family Psychotherapy - with Client - Hour session	AH	×	
		HO		

Crisis Management				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
H2011	Crisis Management	AH	×	
		HO		
		HN		

Community Support Services (CSS)				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
H2014	Behavioral Modification	AH	X	
		HO		
		HN		
H2017	Psychosocial Service Rehabilitative - Individual and Group use the same modifier	U1	X	
		U2		
		U3		
S9482	Family Support Services	AH	X	
		HO		
		HN		

COVID-19 Testing				
Procedure Code	Procedure Code Description	Modifier	Yes	No
87811	Immunoassay, COVID- 19 with direct optical observation	-	X	



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 8, 2024

Blue Cross & Blue Shield Central New York, Inc.
PO Box 4809
Syracuse, NY 13221-4809

To Whom It May Concern:

The State of South Carolina's Department of Education (SCDE) is requesting information from healthcare insurance companies providing healthcare insurance coverage to students ages 3-21 throughout South Carolina, and your organization has been identified as a primary insurance company currently providing health insurance coverage to students in South Carolina.

The following services are rendered in school-based settings by providers who are licensed, certified, or supervised and work within their scope of practice based on the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation requirements and guidelines established by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Medicaid policy:

1. Physical therapy
2. Occupational therapy
3. Audiology services
4. Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)/Mental health or addiction counseling services (e.g., psychotherapy, crisis management, etc.)
5. Speech services
6. Psychological testing and evaluation
7. COVID-19 Testing
8. COVID- 19 Vaccine Administration

The SCDE would like to know if your company's healthcare plan(s) cover any of the services listed above. Included you will find SCDE's School-Based Service Sheet which identifies the procedure codes, procedure descriptions, and modifiers that will be/are utilized in school-based settings for academic year 2024-2025. If your plan reimburses for any of the procedure codes listed when the service is rendered

ELLEN E. WEAVER · STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
428 WHOLESALE LANE · WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172

PHONE: 803-734-8500 · FAX: 803-734-3389 · ED.SC.GOV

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in a school-based setting, please communicate this within the School-Based Service Sheet by placing a check mark within the column that says “Yes” or typing the word ‘Yes.’ Enter the word ‘No’ or place a check mark in the column that says “No” if your company does not provide reimbursement for the services when rendered in a school- based setting.

Responding to this letter is beneficial to both the school districts throughout South Carolina and your organization. In 2017, Medicaid began to require that school districts submit claims to primary/third-party insurers prior to billing Medicaid when a student receives services in a school-based setting and has health insurance coverage by a primary/third-party insurer.

Currently, school districts in South Carolina must submit a claim to a student’s primary insurance company, receive a denial from the primary insurance company, and then bill Medicaid after the denial is received from the primary insurance company (documentation of the denial from the primary/third-party insurer must be attached to the Medicaid claim) for each service rendered by the school district. This is both, time consuming and burdensome for school districts, particularly when the school district knows that they will receive a denial from the third-party due to non-coverage, and the school district does not have the bandwidth or capacity to carry out the task (i.e., rural school districts). To alleviate this burden, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will allow districts to bypass the process of submitting the claim to the primary/third-party insurer (just to receive a denial), if there is a letter from the primary/third-party insurer (on the third-party/primary insurer’s company letterhead) which states that they do not cover the services identified in the School-Based Service Sheet when provided in a school-based setting. Therefore, the school districts throughout SC need your organization to respond to this letter. Your response is imperative, and districts are relying on you to alleviate the administrative burden of submitting unnecessary claims to your organization if you do not cover the services identified in the School-Based Service Sheet included with this letter.

Responding to this letter also benefits your organization as your organization can avoid receiving and processing claims from up to 74 school districts for up to approximately 200,000 students within the state of South Carolina (Note: it is unknown how many students your organization provides coverage to at this time).

The SCDE’s Office of Medicaid Services (OMS) appreciates your response to this letter, as school districts continue to provide medically necessary services to students throughout South Carolina and the OMS continues to assist school districts throughout South Carolina in streamlining the third- party billing process.

Please forward your information/response using your company’s letterhead which ensures authenticity to Wanda Pontoo, Administrative Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Education, Room A371-2, 428 Wholesale Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172 via email wpontoo@ed.sc.gov. If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact Wanda Pontoo at (803) 734-8371 or email wpontoo@ed.sc.gov.

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Thank you in advance for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Vanesha Perrin
Director, Office of Medicaid Services

Enclosure: School-Based Service Sheet

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West Columbia, SC 29172

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New York, Inc.
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Syracuse, NY 13221-4809

EYY-SM 13221



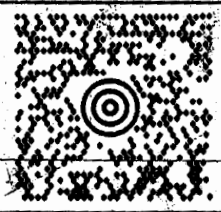
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