



MAXIMIZING MEDICAID DIRECT CARE REIMBURSEMENTS

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What's the big deal?

- ❖ Ongoing revenue stream
- ❖ Proceeds are considered a 'reimbursement' per 20-9-507, MCA and may be spent at the discretion of the trustees
- ❖ Not subject to General Fund budget caps
- ❖ Unused balances can carry over from year to year



Medicaid funds available for districts

What is available in Montana?

Medicaid claiming programs available to school districts:

- ❖ Comprehensive School and Community Treatment: Comprehensive planned course of community mental health outpatient treatment that includes therapeutic interventions and supportive services provided in a public school-based environment in office and treatment space provided by the school. Commonly known as CSCT.



Medicaid funds available for districts

What is available in Montana?

Medicaid claiming programs available to school districts:

- ❖ School District Administrative Claiming: Districts bill Medicaid for a percentage of the cost of administering the special education program. SDAC is commonly known as Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC).



Medicaid funds available for districts

What is available in Montana?

Medicaid claiming programs available to school districts:

- ❖ Fee for Service: Districts bill Medicaid for many health-related services provided to Medicaid-eligible special education students. FFS is commonly known as direct service billing.



Accessing Medicaid funds can be daunting!

Why?

A school district's ability to maximize its direct care service reimbursements depends on the following factors:

- ❖ The types of services authorized for Medicaid reimbursement
- ❖ Proper documentation is collected during the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process to allow for Medicaid billing by the district
- ❖ Medicaid-eligible services are delivered and claimed



Covered Services



- ❖ Evaluations that result in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for medically necessary services
- ❖ Speech, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psych, Orientation and Mobility
- ❖ Nursing and Personal Care Paraprofessional services with physician approval
- ❖ Home-to-school transportation for students in a wheelchair on days when they have the above services.

Fee for Service Reimbursements

Psychological Services Covered

- ❖ DPHHS guidance [School Based Service Manual](#)

- ❖ School psychology and mental health services including clinical social work and clinical professional counseling
 - ✓ Credentialed school psychologist
 - ✓ Licensed psychologist
 - ✓ Licensed clinical professional counselor
 - ✓ Licensed clinical social worker

Mental Health Services in Schools

- ❖ Montana Healthcare Programs covers psychological counseling services when the following two criteria are met:
 - ✓ The member's IEP includes a behavior management plan that documents the need for the services.
 - ✓ Service is not provided concurrently with CSCT services (unless prior authorization has been obtained).

Mental Health Services in Schools



Individual psychological therapy.

Psychological tests and other assessment procedures when the assessment results in health-related services being written into the IEP.

Interpreting assessment results.

Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and conditions as it affects learning, if it results in an IEP. This only includes direct face-to-face service.

Mental health and counseling services that are documented on the member's IEP.

Consultation with the child's parent as part of the child's treatment.

Fee for Service: Billable or not?

- ❖ Student sees a counselor weekly
- ❖ Student receives CSCT services
- ❖ A special education teacher requests psychological consultation and observation for a student
- ❖ Student receiving services has a Medicaid account, but does not have a health-related disability

Service Reimbursements

- ❖ Evaluations
- ❖ Speech: \$39.40/service, \$11.97 group
- ❖ OT/Physical Therapy: \$19.74/unit, \$9.15 group
- ❖ Psych Services: \$34.85/\$13.78 group
- ❖ Personal Care Paraprofessionals: \$4.14 per unit
- ❖ Nursing Services: \$6.54 per unit
- ❖ Transportation: \$9.56 per trip

** a unit is generally 15 minutes of service time

Service Reimbursements

EXAMPLE: Joe Student

- ❖ Joe has weekly speech services listed on his IEP
- ❖ Speech is reimbursed by DPHHS at \$39.40 per session
- ❖ With an average of 3 services per month for a school year, the district will receive \$1,063.80 for Joe's speech services.

Service Reimbursements

EXAMPLE: Josie Student

- ❖ Josie has para personal care services listed in her IEP and a Child Profile form signed by her doctor is on file
- ❖ Josie has 4 hours of para personal care help on school days. DPHHS reimburses \$16.56/hr or \$66.24/day
- ❖ With an average of 15 days per month for a school year, the district will receive \$8,942 for Josie's Paraprofessional services.

Services Not Covered

- ❖ Evaluations that don't result in an IEP
- ❖ Classroom observation
- ❖ Paraprofessional Services for academic or behavior reasons
- ❖ Therapy services intended to maintain a student's current condition
- ❖ Services performed without proper documentation such as personal care logs



Gearing up for Medicaid Claims

- ❖ Districts must have a provider agreement with Montana DPHHS
- ❖ Students must be eligible for and enrolled in Montana Medicaid
- ❖ Services must be covered in Montana and written in the IEP
- ❖ Parents need to sign a Consent to Bill Medicaid form before claims can be reimbursed

Reimbursement Options

- ❖ Send in claims using paper submission
- ❖ School employee enters each service into online submission platform through DPHHS
- ❖ Subcontract the entering of services into DPHHS platform
- ❖ Service Portal with providers logging services that are electronically submitted

Comparing Billing providers

- ❖ Do I need help or can I do this myself?
- ❖ Fee structures
- ❖ District liaison for Medicaid Billing
- ❖ Number of direct care logs for reimbursement
- ❖ Reimbursement frequency

Top 10 Ways to Maximize Your Reimbursements...

1. Train staff thoroughly
2. Log all services provided
3. Check eligibility monthly
4. Collect and review necessary documents
5. Well-written IEPs cover all Medicaid eligible services
6. Review claims prior to submission
7. Have a contact person in the district to answer questions
8. Carefully review Remittance Advice for claims that need to be fixed and resubmitted.
9. Set up accountability parameters for staff and incentivize logging
10. Organize long term records storage required in case of audit

Common Questions

- ❖ How does it work if my district belongs to an educational cooperative?
- ❖ Our district contracts Physical Therapy through the hospital. How are services reimbursed?
- ❖ Does Medicaid reimbursements to the school affect the overall coverage for a student?

Questions?



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