

School-Based Medicaid Program Parent Guide



1. What is school-based Medicaid?

- a. Georgia allows for schools to receive reimbursement from Medicaid for certain health related services provided in schools.

2. Why is school-based Medicaid important to schools?

- a. Students who require medical services in schools are provided these services regardless of if Medicaid reimburses the school. However, if the services can be reimbursed by Medicaid, these additional funds will allow schools to provide expanded health services to the entire school.

3. What are the criteria for students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to qualify for school-based Medicaid services?

- a. Students must be Medicaid-eligible on the date of service.
- b. Be under 21 years of age.
- c. Be considered disabled under LEA (Local Education Agency) definitions.
- d. Medicaid reimbursable services must be documented in the Letter of Medical Necessity or Plan of Care and included in his or her special education plan, IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

4. What are the criteria for students without an IEP (general education students) to qualify for school-based Medicaid services (Nursing Service Only)?

- a. Students must be Medicaid-eligible on the date of service.
- b. Be under 21 years of age.
- c. Must have Medicaid reimbursable nursing services.
- d. A documented care plan (Diabetes Medical Management Plan, Emergency Anaphylaxis Plan, Seizure Plan, etc.) must be on file with primary physician and parental authorization.

5. What services are covered by school-based Medicaid?

- a. Audiology
- b. Counseling
- c. Nursing
- d. Nutritional services
- e. Occupational therapy
- f. Physical therapy
- g. Speech therapy

6. What are the requirements for a LEA to bill Medicaid?

- a. School districts may only bill Medicaid if they have 1) provided parental notification to access the health benefits and the parent consents to billing Medicaid for services rendered, 2) the student receives a billable school service, and 3) the service is medically necessary.

7. If the student receives healthcare services such as speech therapy from a private provider, can speech therapy services also be provided at school?

- a. Yes. Students can receive services at school and from an outside provider.
- b. Parents are encouraged to seek services within the school system if the student warrants them because therapeutic interventions in the school-setting are embedded in the instructional program. This increases the effectiveness of interventions and the achievement of goals.

8. If the student receives services from both a private provider and a school provider, i.e., speech therapy, is the parent financial obligation affected because the services are from the same provider type?

- a. No. Both providers can bill and be reimbursed, even if it is on the same date of service. Medicaid has two different branches of Medicaid coverage, **Children's Intervention School Services (CISS)** and **Children's Intervention Services (CIS)** and both services should be covered if they meet billing requirements. Parents of students with Medicaid will not receive out-of-pocket costs due to using School Based Medicaid or CISS benefits. The use of the CISS benefits will not affect the benefits available through the CIS program. .

Contact Information:**GaDOE Office of Whole Child Support**wholechild@doe.k12.ga.us**Department of Community Health**dch.ciss@dch.ga.gov

*Please reference the **Children's Intervention School Services** manual for more information.