

## FAQ about Medicaid Coverage for Services in Schools or by Another Provider, Clinic or Setting

If a student receives health-related services in the schools, will that affect his/her ability to receive similar services from another Medicaid provider like a clinic or therapy practice?

No. The fact that a student receives health-related services at school does not prevent him/her from receiving services from another Medicaid provider.

Why are the services for my child by another Medicaid provider being denied by Medicaid?

All other (non-School) Medicaid providers must obtain prior authorization in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement for health-related services such as therapy or tube-feeding. Medicaid has very stringent guidelines for obtaining this approval and does not grant all requests. One of the most common reasons other Medicaid providers are denied authorization is the *medical necessity* in the prior authorization request was not documented or evident. Medicaid requires detailed information be submitted with every application for authorization. Specifically, they must include a recent evaluation, appropriate objective testing and goals, frequency of sessions with anticipated duration, and demonstration of a treatment plan. Providers cannot just submit a request for therapy with no other information. The Medicaid Health Plans have their own system for authorizing therapies, but Medicaid encourages them to require similar documentation.

I have heard from other parents or other Medicaid provider staff or personnel that they have been instructing families not to give parental consent to bill Medicaid to the Schools. The reason given by staff at these practices or clinics is that it is because the School is billing Medicaid that their prior authorizations are being denied. Is this true?

NO. There are various reasons Medicaid providers are not granted prior authorization, but the fact that the child or student is receiving therapy in the School is not a valid reason for denial.

Is there any connection between the schools and the other Medicaid providers regarding Medicaid reimbursement?

From the Medicaid Provider Manual (Section 3.2): “Children with special needs have access to services available in both outpatient and school-based treatment settings. If treatment is provided in both settings, the goals and purpose for the two must be distinct. School based services are provided to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. Outpatient services are provided to optimize the child’s functional performance in relation to needs in the home or community setting and must not duplicate those provided in the school setting. Collaboration between the school and the community providers is mandated to coordinate treatment and to prevent duplication of services. This collaboration may take the form of phone calls, written communication logs, participation in team meetings such as the IEP/IFSP meetings.”

Is there anything that can be done to help the student receive services both in school and with outside agencies?

YES. If a parent tells you that the other Medicaid provider from whom they want services is having difficulty getting prior authorization, inform the parent that Medicaid has published its criteria for authorizing therapies and does not authorize all requests. If the parent grants permission, the school therapist may discuss the child's needs with the other Medicaid provider to improve collaboration of the child's care. If the other Medicaid provider is affiliated or a member of a Medicaid Health Plan's provider network, they should call the Medicaid Managed Care office at 517-335-5500.

If there are general questions about coverage in schools for IEP/IFSP services, contact Lana Stiebe, Medicaid School Based Services, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, at 734-994-8100 x1548, [lstiebe@washtenawisd.org](mailto:lstiebe@washtenawisd.org).

If you are having difficulty with prior authorization with another provider, clinic or setting and are given the reason that your student receives School Based Services, please contact Kevin Bauer, the Medicaid School Based Services Policy Specialist at: [BauerK2@michigan.gov](mailto:BauerK2@michigan.gov) or 517-284-1197.

For questions about Medicaid in general, families should call the Medicaid beneficiary help line: 800-642-3195.

For questions about Children's Special Health Care Services coverage or their recent move to Medicaid Health Plans, see their website with FAQ, resources and other information:

[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/) > Assistance Programs (upper left tab) > Children's Special Health Care Services (third tab down)