

The Ohio Medicaid School Program (MSP) 2/10/09

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), public schools are mandated to provide specific healthcare benefits to children with special needs. Specifically, public schools are required to provide a free appropriate public education, special education and related services, to children ages 3 through 21. Such related services can include therapies, nursing, counseling, etc. This mandate, as well as the requirement that children of compulsory age be enrolled in school, makes the school a great setting to facilitate healthcare access for children.

On 8/12/08, Ohio Medicaid received approval from CMS to implement a reimbursement program that would allow schools to receive Medicaid reimbursement for services they provide to Medicaid eligible children ages 3 to 21 who receive services at school through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed in accordance with IDEA. The program would allow reimbursement of costs for: direct services provided by licensed practitioners of the healing arts, targeted case management (also a direct service but not necessarily provided by licensed individuals), administrative activities that support the effective and efficient operation of the Medicaid program, and for transportation to and from Medicaid providers in a vehicle specially adapted for those with disabilities in order for the child to access medical services.

Emergency rules were put into effect 12/1/08, and on 1/28/09, the permanent rules to implement MSP went through JCARR. The permanent rules are to go into effect 3/2/09. Following are some summary details about the Medicaid School Program:

Purpose	The proposal allows schools to be Medicaid providers of skilled therapy and the other specified services.
Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. direct services (specified below) 2. administration 3. transportation
Potential Providers	city school district, local school district, exempted village, state school for the deaf, state school for the blind, community school. Other types of providers not specified as an eligible provider can subcontract with their school district.
Provider Enrollment	The schools must obtain an NPI, submit a Medicaid provider application and be approved to receive a Medicaid provider agreement, and become or contract with an EDI trading partner to submit claims.
Services	audiology, behavioral health [counseling, psychology, and social work], nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and targeted case management, as well as specialized transportation.
Medical Necessity	Service is recommended by a licensed practitioner with a valid Ohio license who is working within his or her scope of practice as defined by Ohio law, and service is indicated in a child's IEP. Prior authorization will not be required for services indicated in the IEP, but the service indication will be verified during the retrospective review.
Authorization for Reimbursement	The services for which Medicaid would allow reimbursement of costs will be delineated in the IEP. Compliance monitoring will review/verify that claims are for services indicated in the IEP.
Mode of Reimbursement	Fee-for-service rates will be used in the interim for services with final claim/reimbursement based upon a cost report for all three components of MSP, and using a random moment time study.
Non-Federal Share (match)	Public school providers are responsible for the non-federal share of their costs. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is responsible for the non-federal share of costs for the public school provider that cannot meet its non-federal share obligation.