



**MassHealth  
School-Based Medicaid Program Bulletin 32  
June 2019**

**TO:** School-Based Medicaid Providers Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

**RE: Parental Consent for Local Education Agencies to Bill MassHealth  
Does Not Change MassHealth Benefits Outside of School**

## **Background**

MassHealth is dedicated to improving the health outcomes of our diverse members, their families, and their communities by providing access to integrated health care systems that sustainably promote health, well-being, independence, and quality of life.

According to guidance published by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires LEAs to obtain consent from a parent or guardian to share information with MassHealth, including information needed to bill MassHealth for services provided to students, DESE provides [guidance on parental consent](#) requirements on its website.

This bulletin clarifies that parental consent allowing LEAs to bill MassHealth does not change the MassHealth services that members can receive inside or outside of school. LEAs are encouraged to share this bulletin with parents and guardians to clarify this policy.

The School Based Medicaid Program (SBMP) does offer local education agencies (LEAs) an important opportunity to be reimbursed when they provide MassHealth covered services to MassHealth members. LEAs can be cities, towns, charter schools, regional schools, vocational schools, or technical schools. LEAs may bill MassHealth for reimbursable services and administrative costs. Parents and guardians of MassHealth members are **not** billed for these services.

## **Consent to LEA Billing MassHealth**

Granting or revoking parent or guardian consent to allow the LEA to bill MassHealth **does not change** the amount, frequency, or duration of MassHealth services that MassHealth members can receive inside or outside of school. Services that MassHealth members may receive both in and out of school include, but are not limited to

- Nursing services
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapies
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services
- Psychotherapy services

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MassHealth may require prior authorization (PA) to determine whether certain services are medically necessary outside of school. PA may be required before services start or after a certain threshold of visits have been met. As part of the PA process, MassHealth reviews the member's needs and/or conducts a clinical evaluation of the member's needs and also considers the services the member already receives, including the services expected to be delivered in the school setting.

Clinical review and prior authorization are conducted as appropriate **regardless of whether an LEA bills MassHealth**. Thus, the granting or revoking of parental or guardian consent for LEAs to bill MassHealth does not change the amount, frequency, or duration of services provided outside of school.

### **SBMP Website**

For more information about the School-Based Medicaid Program, including the upcoming changes effective July 1, 2019, please see [www.mass.gov/masshealth/schools](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/schools). A copy of this bulletin can be found at [www.mass.gov/lists/sbmp-program-bulletins](http://www.mass.gov/lists/sbmp-program-bulletins).

### **Questions**

If LEAs have questions about this bulletin please contact the School-Based Medicaid Claiming Program at (800) 535-6741 or by email at [schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu](mailto:schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu).

If parents or guardians have questions or concerns about their child's out-of-school MassHealth benefits, please contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900.

For questions specifically about Community Case Management (CCM), please contact the CCM program at (508) 856-6222.

For questions about parent or guardian consent, please contact the DESE Office of Student and Family Support at (781) 338-3010 or by email at [achievement@doe.mass.edu](mailto:achievement@doe.mass.edu).