



**MassHealth**  
**School-Based Medicaid Program**  
**Bulletin 31**  
**May 2018**

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

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

**RE: School-Based Medicaid Program Expansion**

**Expansion to Include Reimbursement for Additional Health-related Services**

MassHealth is expanding the School-Based Medicaid Program to include payment for services that are provided to students pursuant to an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP), an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), a Section 504 plan, or services that are otherwise medically necessary. Payment for services provided pursuant to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to be provided under the expanded program.

MassHealth intends to implement the expansion to the School-Based Medicaid Program effective July 1, 2019 (the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2020), to provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) time to execute amendments to provider contracts, participate in training, and implement these changes within program guidelines.

A brief outline of the changes is described in the table below:

Program Area	Pre-expansion	Expansion
Providers	<p>The following providers with appropriate licensure and supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) / Assistant ABA</li> <li>▪ Audiologists / Audiology Assistants</li> <li>▪ Hearing Instrument Specialists</li> <li>▪ Mental Health Counselors</li> <li>▪ Nurses (LPN, RN, APRN)</li> <li>▪ Occupational Therapists / Assistant OT</li> <li>▪ Personal Care Services Providers</li> <li>▪ Physical Therapists / Assistant PT</li> <li>▪ Psychiatrists</li> <li>▪ Psychologist licensed by the MA Board of Registration of Psychologists</li> <li>▪ Social Workers</li> <li>▪ Speech/Language Therapists Speech-Language Pathology Assistants</li> </ul>	<p>Currently payable providers and the following additional providers with appropriate licensure and supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dental Hygienist</li> <li>▪ Nutritionist/Registered Dietician</li> <li>▪ Respiratory therapist</li> <li>▪ School Psychologist licensed by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education</li> </ul>

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Program Area	Pre-expansion	Expansion
Reimbursable Services	Medically necessary IEP services only	Medically necessary MassHealth covered services provided pursuant to an IEP, an IHCP, an IFSP, a Section 504 plan, or are otherwise medically necessary
Random Moment Time Study Pools	Three pools: Pool 1: Direct Services Pool 2: ABA Services Pool 3: Administrative Only	Four pools: Pool 1: Mental/Behavioral Health Providers Pool 2: Therapy Services* Pool 3: Medical Services Pool 4: Administrative Only  *Therapy services in this context refers to physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

**Interim Billing**

Consistent with current policy, interim billing submission is required for all covered services under expansion (IEP and non-IEP).

**Provider Contract**

**LEAs will be required to execute an amendment to the provider contract with MassHealth in order to participate in the School-Based Medicaid Program**, even if they intend to submit claims only for IEP services. Amendments to provider contracts will be distributed by Fall 2018.

**Diagnosis Code**

Clinically appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis codes must be submitted on all interim claims for all medically necessary services. Additional information and training about ICD-10 code requirements will be made available to LEAs.

**Parental/Guardian Consent**

In accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE’s) student records regulations and federal law, LEAs should only submit claims for services provided to MassHealth-enrolled students for whom parental consent has been obtained. Furthermore, LEAs should only include students in Medicaid eligibility statistics for whom parental consent has been obtained. LEAs should work with parents to obtain parental consent using the DESE sample form

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### **Parental/Guardian Consent (*cont.*)**

that DESE will post online. Upon posting, DESE and MassHealth will distribute the website where the sample form can be found.

If you have any questions about this consent, you may contact DESE's Office of Student and Family Support at (781) 338-3010 or [achievement@doe.mass.edu](mailto:achievement@doe.mass.edu).

### **Additional Guidance and Training**

A variety of communication and trainings will be available for LEAs throughout the implementation process.

1. The following updated program guides or communications will be issued:
  - a. Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) User Guide
  - b. Instruction Guide for School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claims
  - c. Instruction Guide for Massachusetts School-Based Cost Report
  - d. School-Based Medicaid Program User Guide
  - e. Provider bulletin containing procedure codes and interim rates
2. A series of in-person and online trainings is planned for each program area:
  - a. Interim Claiming
  - b. RMTS
  - c. Administrative Claiming
  - d. Cost Report

Details on training dates and registration will be distributed separately to LEAs.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the School-Based Claiming Program at (800) 535-6741 or [schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu](mailto:schoolbasedclaiming@umassmed.edu).