

6-7-16

**Memorandum****To: John Phelan, Superintendent****From: Mary Conant-Cantor, Director of Nursing****Date: June 7, 2016****Re: School Based Medicaid Reimbursement**

School districts can receive Medicaid reimbursement for health-related services provided to special education students. With the assistance of University of Massachusetts Medical School, School-Based Medicaid Program, the Belmont Public Schools is actively pursuing the ability to start receiving Medicaid reimbursement for services currently being provided to special education students. Examples of eligible direct medical services are:

- **Physical Therapy,**
- **Occupational Therapy,**
- **Speech and Language,**
- **Nursing Services, and**
- **Autism Related Services (new, as of 2015).**

In FY2015, there were 330 school districts (including regional districts, regional voc-techs and charter schools) in Massachusetts participating in this program.

As of today, Belmont Public Schools has received their National Provider Identifier (NPI), a MASSHealth Provider Number, and has a signed contract with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, School-Based Medicaid Program. Billing for eligible direct services is anticipated to begin here in Belmont in FY2017.

For more information on the School-Based Medicaid Program please feel free to visit their website at: <http://commed.umassmed.edu/topics-services/service/school-based-claiming>.

# Medicaid Claiming Services for School Districts



Since 1988, local school districts have been eligible to claim and receive federal Medicaid reimbursement for health-related services provided to special education students. Schools are able to claim for direct medical services as well as for certain administrative activities.

## Examples of Eligible Direct Medical Services

- Autism-related services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy

## Examples of Eligible Administrative Activities

- Coordinating care between families & providers
- Outreach regarding the benefits of Medicaid
- Assisting families to enroll in Medicaid
- Linking students to appropriate health care services

## Our Work Supporting School Districts and Families

The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMass), through its Center for Health Care Financing division, works with state and local health care agencies to control health care costs, while increasing the value of their health care spending. A key component of these services is federal Medicaid reimbursement, which helps improve financing and ensure that individuals and families gain better access to quality health care.

Our school-based claiming services allow clients to maximize Medicaid revenue and ensure that special education students have access to the health care services they need. Since 1997, UMass has helped state and local governments secure more than \$1 billion in federal Medicaid reimbursement.

### Our services include:

- **Random moment time studies (RMTS):** UMass was one of the first organizations nationally to provide RMTS to school districts.
- **Medicaid eligibility matching:** Our web-based system compares student rosters with Medicaid enrollment records, validating matches and providing accurate, secure results.
- **Direct service claiming:** We enable school districts to obtain reimbursement for allowable direct health care services provided to students.
- **Administrative claiming:** Using required time study data, we enable school districts to obtain reimbursement for allowable Medicaid-related administrative services provided to students and their families.
- **Cost reporting:** Our web-based system enables school districts to obtain reimbursement for allowable Medicaid health-related services provided to students and their families through a cost report and reconciliation tool.
- **Training:** In addition to on-site trainings, we provide a variety of web-based training tools such as online training modules, interactive demonstrations and online meeting rooms, as well as the preparation and development of user guides and program manuals.

## Our Online School-Based Claiming System

UMass's proprietary, web-enabled school-based claiming application currently supports over 2,000 school districts in nine states, including Massachusetts, Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Utah, Hawaii, Vermont, Washington and Ohio, as well as various state and local agencies in Ohio, Connecticut and Washington. The system was designed specifically to support school-based service and administrative support claiming programs, including time studies and cost reporting. Among the key features of our claiming environment are:

- Our system is easily customizable to an individual district/agency's needs.
- Online reporting ensures greater accuracy, speeds up reporting times, and eliminates the need for paper records.
- Detailed data access and ad hoc reporting capabilities allow quick and accurate responses to audits and requests for information.
- Our system supports claiming for Medicaid-related services under a variety of time study and claiming methodologies.
- A district's historical claims are maintained and are accessible in response to audit or oversight agency requests.
- Our system complies with all applicable federal security and privacy guidelines.

## Clients Nationwide

UMass provides a variety of claiming services, including administrative claiming, Medicaid eligibility determinations, random moment time studies, cost reporting, training and direct service claiming, for the following government clients:

### **Massachusetts** – Client since 1992

Executive Office of Health and Human Services and School Districts

### **Rhode Island** – Client since 2000

School Districts

### **Virginia** – Client since 2002

Department of Medical Assistance Services

### **Vermont** – Client since 2005

Department of Health

### **Hawaii** – Client since 2006

Department of Education

### **Ohio** – Client since 2009

Department of Education

### **Connecticut** – Client since 2010

Department of Social Services

### **Washington** – Client since 2011

Health Care Authority

### **Utah** – Client since 2003

School Districts

## Why Choose Us

UMass is dedicated to ensuring that school districts receive all federal reimbursement they are entitled to while maintaining the highest standards of integrity for all claims filed on behalf of school districts. Our claiming processes are supported by an experienced staff of over three dozen claims specialists, many of whom have been with our program for more than a decade. Our clients can take advantage of our state-of-the-art claiming environment that is maintained by a dedicated team working under the supervision of the Medical School's Chief Information Officer, with all data housed in the UMass HIPAA-compliant data center.



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