



Medicaid School Based Claiming (MSBC) Transformation

Lisa DeWitt, TPA Manager, School Based Administrator

State Efforts to Transform the School Based Claiming Program

- AHCCCS is pursuing changes to the MSBC program recognizing the growing need to provide health services and support to children where they spend much of their time - in school.
- Historically, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance on “free care” was that Medicaid payment was generally not allowable for services that were available without charge to the beneficiary.
- In 2014, CMS issued a State Medicaid director letter reversing the long-standing free care policy. This change allows states more flexibility in their school-based Medicaid programs by allowing school districts to bill Medicaid for health services delivered to all Medicaid-enrolled children, not just those with a special education plan documented by an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

State Efforts to Transform the School Based Claiming Program (cont...)

- Implementing the "free care" policy reversal is one pathway to increasing children's access to Medicaid services.
- In order to implement this change, Arizona needs to submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to CMS.
- A SPA is a contract with CMS on how we administer Medicaid and the school-based claiming program.
- The SPA amendment was submitted to CMS 4/26/21
- Tentative go live is 10/1/21, the services provided to other plans of care will be known as Open Care.

Transformation Opportunities, expand allowable provider types

Program Area	Current AHCCCS School Based Claiming Services	Transformation Opportunities
Providers	<p>The following providers with appropriate licensure and supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiologists • Licensed clinical Social Workers (LCSW), • Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) • Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT) • Nurses (LPN, RN) • Occupational Therapists / Assistant OT • Personal Care Services Providers / Health Aids • Physical Therapists / Assistant PT • Psychiatrists • Psychologist • Speech/Language Therapists Speech-Language Pathology Assistants • Specialized Transportation 	<p>Currently allowed providers and the following additional providers with appropriate licensure and supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) • Nurse Practitioners (NP) • Physicians MD or DO (EPSDT services) • Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor (LISAC) • Bus Aids (same requirements as Personal Care Services Providers / Health Aids)

Transformation Opportunities beyond Individualized Education Program (IEP's)

Program Area	Current AHCCCS School Based Claiming Services	Transformation Opportunities
Reimbursable Services	Medically necessary IEP services only	<p>Medically necessary covered services provided pursuant to an IEP or below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IHCP – Individual Health Care Plan• IFSP – Individualized Family Service Plan• Section 504 plan – plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.• Chronic Illness Plan• Chronic Health Plan• Or are otherwise medically necessary, to be determined

Transformation Opportunities, Telehealth

Program Area	Current AHCCCS School Based Claiming Services	Transformation Opportunities
Reimbursable Services	Telehealth	<p>Implemented Telehealth as a modality for the provision of existing Local Education Agency (LEA) Program reimbursable services 3/30/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See the Medicaid School Based Claims Rates schedule for services approved.

Transformation Timeline

Jul – Dec
2019

- Conduct work groups to identify transformation opportunities and outline changes

Dec – Jan
2019

- Meet with stake holders to discuss proposed changes.
- Submit a survey to stake holders for feedback on proposed changes.

Jan – Feb
2020

- Draft SPA Language and prepare program transformation documentation
- Delayed due to Covid 19 public health emergency

Transformation Timeline (cont.)

April -May
2021

- Submitted SPA to CMS 4/26/21
- Present SPA at Tribal Consultation
- Begin 45 day public comment period

June – Sept
2021

- Update systems with changes
- Community engagement and LEA training

Oct 2021

- Effective date = October 1, 2021 following CMS approval.

Contact Information

The MSBC Program is administered by Public Consulting Group (PCG).

Address: Public Consulting Group, Inc.
101 North First Avenue, Suite 1850
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone Numbers:

(602) 324-5090 Office Number

(877) 877-8011 Toll Free Number

(602) 324-5091 Fax Number

For more information, visit Public Consulting Group's website, at: <https://web.pcgus.com/>

Questions?

Thank You.