

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

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PENN*LINK

To: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Charter School Special Education Directors
Approved Private School Executive Directors

From: John J. Tommasini, Director
Bureau of Special Education

James E. Coyle, Ed.D., Director
Bureau of Early Intervention Services
Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Subject: Update: Impact of School-Based ACCESS Program Services on Medical Assistance Services

This is a reissue of a Penn*Link from Jan. 15, 2010. In addition, it reiterates information in the Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-12-11.

Prior to January 2012, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) received a memorandum from the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) regarding concerns of parents that the services billed through the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) would affect medical assistance services their child received outside the school setting. Parents had expressed concerns that if they sign a SBAP permission form and allow the school entity to bill for the services provided in the school setting, outside services would cease or would count this toward a "cap" or limit on the services they may receive under the medical assistance program. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) Director of Policy, Budget and Planning, has addressed these concerns in the memorandum that is available through PDE.
(<http://www.publicconsultinggroup.com/client/paaccess/documents/Joint%20Memo%20Impact%20of%20School%20Based-Access%20Program%20Services%20on%20Medical%20Assistance%20Services%2012-2009.pdf>) Their guidance is provided below.

The health related services a student receives through the SBAP are separate from the medical assistance services a child receives outside of the school

setting. SBAP services are health care services that are rendered by professional staff employed or contracted by the school entity to perform health care services as identified on the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to children who are medical assistance-eligible recipients. The scope and duration of the SBAP services are clearly identified on the IEP and authorized as determined to be medically necessary by a practitioner. The medically necessary medical assistance services that are provided to the medical assistance-eligible child outside of the school setting have a separate scope or duration than those SBAP services performed by the school personnel or contractor. Both types of services are billed through the medical assistance program for payment of service.

Additionally, there is no "cap" or limit on the total amount of money that may be paid by the medical assistance program for SBAP services or medical assistance services that the medical assistance eligible child may receive.

The medical assistance program does not impose medical assistance benefit "caps" or limits on covered services provided to medical assistance-eligible children. Based on the federal Medicaid law, medical assistance eligible children are eligible for all medically necessary services. Please keep in mind that a parent still has the right to refuse to sign the parental notification and to not allow the school entity to bill the medical assistance program for SBAP services.

On Sept. 20, 2012, OMAP issued Bulletin 99-12-11. The purpose of this bulletin was to announce that DPW is implementing co-payments for services provided to children with disabilities, under the age of 18, who are eligible for medical assistance under the Physically Handicapped 95 category. In that announcement it identifies a number of services that are exempt from co-pays. **Services provided as part of SBAP are exempt from co-pays.**