



Medicaid School Based Claiming (MSBC)

Lisa DeWitt, TPA Manager,
School Based Administrator



Arizona Medicaid School-Based Claiming Program

- Arizona participates in two Medicaid reimbursement programs for school based services, the Direct Service Claiming (DSC) program and the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program.
- These two school-based programs assist participating school districts, referred to as Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools and the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB), by reimbursing them for their costs to provide Medicaid covered services to eligible students.
- The purpose of the DSC Program is to allow LEAs to receive reimbursement for the cost to provide Medicaid covered medical services to Title XIX eligible students.
- The purpose of the MAC program is to allow LEAs to receive reimbursement for Medicaid administrative outreach activities that are done routinely within the school setting.

Arizona Medicaid School-Based Claiming Program (cont...)

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the federal agency that oversees these two school-based programs. In Arizona, these programs are overseen by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid agency.
- AHCCCS contracts with a Third Party Administrator (TPA), PCG, to administer both the DSC and MAC programs.

Medicaid School Based Payments	
SFY 17	46 Million
SFY 18	52.3 Million
SFY 19	60.3 Million

Behavioral Health in Schools

- Students in Arizona who receive Title XIX and XXI medical benefits can access behavioral health services in the school setting. AHCCCS , primarily through its contracted Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), helps school administrators and leaders connect with behavioral health providers statewide to meet their students' needs.
- While schools have historically been approved settings for Medicaid-covered behavioral health services, in 2018 \$3 million in state General Fund dollars were appropriated to expand behavioral health services in schools
- \$1 million of this funding is being used in a partnership with the Arizona Department of Education to provide mental health training to schools and school districts.
- The remaining dollars are matched with Federal Funds to generate \$10 million in Medicaid funding to AHCCCS health plans to bring established behavioral health providers into the school setting, meet Medicaid-eligible students where they are and where they have health needs, and pay for Medicaid-covered behavioral health services in schools.

Services in Schools

- MSBC

Students served:

-TXIX only

- Student determined to have a disability, services as outlined on IEP for specialized instruction/services

Staff:

- Employed or contracted by the school district

Payments:

- LEAs (school districts) work with PCG, the AHCCCS contractor, on the claims submission and reimbursement process

- BH in Schools

Students served:

-TXIX and TXXI

- Identified in BH assessment, ongoing treatment plan, medically necessary

Staff:

- MCO – contracted BH providers provide services in schools

Payments:

- MCO's pay claims for services billed by BH providers

State Efforts to Implement the Free Care Policy Reversal

- AHCCCS is pursuing changes to the MSBC program recognizing the growing need to provide health services and support to children where they spend the majority of their time - in school.
- Historically, the CMS guidance on “free care” was that Medicaid payments were not available for Medicaid covered services if the same services were provided to all students free of charge. In schools this translated most frequently to services such as hearing and vision screenings, or nursing services available to all students.
- 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 Implement the Free Care Policy Reversal (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.

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 payable providers and the following additional providers with appropriate licensure and supervision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) – BC provider type ♣ School Bus Aides ♣ Nutritionist/Registered Dietician ♣ Orientation and mobility specialists ♣ School Psychologist licensed by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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</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. ♣ Or are otherwise medically necessary, to be determined

Transformation Opportunities, Telehealth

Program Area	Current AHCCCS School Based Claiming Services	Transformation Opportunities
Reimbursable Services	Telehealth; not eligible	Implement Telehealth as a modality for the provision of existing Local Education Agency (LEA) Program reimbursable services <ul style="list-style-type: none">♣ Behavioral Health♣ Speech assessment and treatment services

Transformation Timeline

June 2019

- Meet with AHCCCS leadership to obtain approval to pursue transformation

Jul – Dec
2019

- Conduct work groups to identify transformation opportunities and outline changes

Jan – Feb
2020

- Draft SPA Language and prepare program transformation documentation

Transformation Timeline (cont...)

March 2020

- Present SPA at Tribal Consultation
- Begin 45 day public comment period
- Ensure LEAs are engaged during public comment period

Apr – Sept
2020

- Submit SPA to CMS
- Update systems with changes
- Community engagement and LEA training

Oct 2020

- Effective date = October 1, 2020 following CMS approval.

Thank You.

