

Third Party Billing for Health Related Services

Information and Notices

School districts must try to get funding from other sources for health related services given under special education. Some services can be paid by a public or private health plan. School districts need to tell families the following information:

1. If your child has Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare (MC) and no other health insurance:
 - The district will bill MA or MC for covered health related services identified on his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP). This includes some assessments for special education.
 - You have a right to ask for, and get a copy of, all records about IEP health related services shared by the district with any party.
 - You have the right to tell the district to stop sharing information needed to be paid for the services. If you choose to stop the district, it will not change anything about your child's IEP or the services your child gets.

2. If your child has Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare (MC) and other health insurance, but the only services the district will bill are personal care assistance or special transportation:
 - The district will bill MA or MC for personal care assistance and/or special transportation if identified on his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP).
 - You have a right to ask for, and get a copy of, all records about IEP health related services shared by the district with any party.
 - You have the right to tell the district to stop sharing information needed to be paid for the services. If you choose to stop the district, it will not change anything about your child's IEP or the services your child gets.

3. If your child is covered by a private health plan or if your child is covered by a public program and by a private health plan and the district wants to bill for services other than personal care assistance or special transportation:
 - You must decide every year if the district can bill your private health plan for health related services. Your decision must be in writing.
 - You must decide every year if the district can bill your public plan (MA or MC) for health related services. Your decision must be in writing.
 - If your child is covered by a public program and a private health plan, if you do not agree to let the district bill your private plan for health related services, they will not be able to bill MA. If you do not want the district to bill your private plan, but you think it is OK to bill MA or MC, you can let your district ask your private plan if they would pay for IEP health related services.
 - If the district bills your private plan and the plan will not pay the district, the district can bill MA. If you told the district they could ask your plan if they will pay the district and the plan says they will, your district will not bill the private plan. This is because you did not agree to let them bill your private plan. If this happens, the district can't bill MA or MC because your private plan is willing to pay for the health related services.
 - If you do not give approval to bill your private plan, nothing will change about your child's IEP or the services your child gets. If you do not give approval to ask your private plan about paying for health related services, nothing will change about your child's IEP or the services your child gets. If you do not give approval to bill MA or MC, nothing will change about your child's IEP or the services your child gets.
 - The district must tell you about things that could happen if the district bills a private plan for your child's health related services. This information can be found on the next page.

Effects of Billing Third Parties for Health Related Services

1. Services provided by the district and paid by Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare (MC) do not count toward any monthly, annual or lifetime service limits.
2. Services provided by the district and paid by MA do not count toward any caps on waived services.
3. Services provided by the district and paid by MA or MC do not affect services you get from other providers or covered by a Prepaid Medical Assistance Plan (PMAP).
4. Services provided by the district and paid by MA do not count toward the amount of a parental contribution. If only IEP services are billed to MA, there is no parental contribution.
5. To be paid by MA or MC, the district may need to share some records with your public or private health plan and your physician. Records may include your child's IEP, assessment summary, medical orders, documentation of service and progress toward goals. The district can't share this information unless you give your OK. The district can only share the information needed to get paid, for an audit or for checking quality.
6. If your private plan pays the district for health related services and there is a copay or deductible, there is no cost to you. The district will pay the copay and/or deductible.
7. If the district is paid by your private health plan, some service limits and prior authorization limits may be affected.
8. If the district is paid by your private health plan, some annual and/or lifetime limits may be affected.
9. The cost of your private health insurance could go up.
10. If you do not let the district use your public or private health insurance, the district must still give your child all the health related services on his or her IEP at no cost to you.
11. Money the district gets from public or private health plans for IEP health related services must be used to help children with special needs. The money cannot be directed to general education funds.
12. The district can ask you for information about your health coverage, but you do not have to give it to them.
13. The district may share your child's name, date of birth or social security number with the Department of Human Services to see if your child is on MA or MC. You can tell the district not to share this information. You need to do this in writing.
14. The district must start giving services on your child's IEP even if they are waiting to find out if your health plan will pay. The district can't change or stop services if they find out your plan won't pay.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS:

Please contact Cindy Graff

at 507 663-8806