


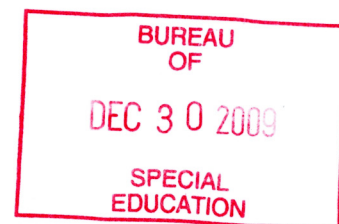
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DEC 28 2009

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

TO: John J. Tommasini, Director
Bureau of Special Education
Department of Education

FROM: 
Leesa M. Allen, Director
Bureau of Policy, Budget and Planning
Department of Public Welfare



This memorandum is to address the concerns some parents have regarding the impact of School Based-ACCESS Program (SBAP) services on the Medical Assistance (MA) Program services their child receives outside the school setting. We understand parents are being advised by parties in the community that their child's MA services will discontinue if they sign the parental notification form and allow the school entity to bill the MA Program for SBAP services. It is also our understanding that parents are being told that the SBAP services their child receives will count toward a "cap" or limit on the services they may receive under the MA Program. Staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and school district personnel indicated that this misinformation has led to many parents refusing to sign the parental notification form to allow the schools to bill the MA Program for their child's SBAP services.

The health related services a student receives through the SBAP are separate and apart from the MA 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 Individual Education Plan (IEP) to children who are MA 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 MA services that are provided to the MA-eligible child outside of the school setting have a separate scope and duration than those SBAP services performed by the school personnel or contractor. Both types of services are billed through the MA Program for payment of service.

Additionally, there is no "cap" or limit on the total amount of money that may be paid by the MA Program for SBAP services or MA services that the MA-eligible child may receive. The MA Program does not impose MA benefit "caps" or limits on covered services provided to MA eligible children. Based on federal Medicaid law, MA 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 MA Program for SBAP services.

We hope this information provided to you assists the Department of Education in carrying out the SBAP program.