
CHAPTER 20: EPSDT HEALTH AND IDEA – RELATED SERVICES

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OVERVIEW

The Louisiana Medicaid program provides, in the school setting, coverage to all Medicaid eligible beneficiaries age three through age 20 for all Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) health services and medically necessary health services to correct or ameliorate a child's disability or chronic health condition pursuant to §1905(a) of the Social Security Act. All Medicaid services must be provided by local education agencies (LEAs) to children who attend public school and private schools in Louisiana in order to be eligible for reimbursement. EPSDT health services and medically necessary health services must be performed by, or under the direction of, a licensed provider within the scope of his or her practice under state law and authorized by the student's written plan of service: individualized education plan (IEP), a section 504 accommodation plan pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 104.36, individualized health care plan (IHP) or other written plans of care as long as it is ordered and performed by individuals licensed to authorize the services included. Louisiana Medicaid services provided in schools is effective March 20, 2019, with CMS approval of Louisiana Medicaid State Plan amendment LA SPA TN 19-0005.

Service Exclusions

1. These services are not covered if they are performed for educational purposes (e.g. academic testing), or, if as the result of the assessment and evaluation, it is determined the service is not reflected in a written plan of service or not determined to be medically necessary.
2. Medicaid does not reimburse for social or educational needs.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

EPSDT is the component of the Louisiana Medicaid Program that provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services.

Definitions

Early

Assessing and identifying problems early;

Periodic

Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals;

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Screening

Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems;

Diagnostic

Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified; and

Treatment

Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

Medically Necessary Health Services

1. Health care services or supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine; and
2. Authorization must be ordered and performed by individuals acting within the scope of their license.

Reimbursement Methodology

Medicaid services provided in schools allows claiming for (LEAs) using certified public expenditures to provide for the State match to federal funds. LEA employees are able to claim their salaries, benefits, taxes and vendor cost for the time spent providing services to students. In order to calculate the claimable amount of the employees' salaries, the LEA must participate in the quarterly statewide time study. A cost report provided by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is used to calculate Medicaid eligible reimbursement due to LEAs on an annual basis. Participating LEAs are subject to periodic audits or reviews of the information submitted in the annual cost report.