



NC Department of Health and Human Services

Medicaid Reimbursable School Nursing Services

August 2019

Overview

- Under IDEA, children with disabilities must have access to a free and appropriate public education regardless of disability.
- Health-related services are provided at considerable costs to State and local school districts.
- Opportunities exist to offset some of these costs through NC's Medicaid program.
- Benefits of school-based claiming:
 - Improves access to needed services
 - Ensures federal participation in sharing associated costs of complying with EPSDT requirements
 - Budget-neutral to the State and enables local school districts to leverage funds

Policy (Coverage) Guidelines for Nursing Services

Content based on Clinical Coverage Policy 10C linked on resource slide

Definition of Nursing Services

- Nursing services must be those services that are directly related to a written plan of care (POC) based on a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner's written order. The plan of care must be developed by a Registered Nurse and may be an individual healthcare plan (IHP) if all components of a POC are reflected.
- These services may include:
 - bladder catheterizations
 - suctioning
 - medication administration and management including observation for adverse reactions, response or lack of response to medication and informing the student about the medications
 - oxygen administration, tracheotomy and ventilator care
 - enteral feedings
 - vision and hearing screening services as defined in policy
 - other treatments ordered by the physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner and outlined in plan of care

Definition of Nursing Services, continued

- Collaboration with the student's primary physician regarding all medical/mental health-related medically necessary services that are outlined in the POC/IHP.
- Training and oversight of delegated services by an RN, including:
 - assessing capabilities of personnel in relation to student status and plan of nursing care and providing adequate training;
 - delegating responsibility or assigning nursing care functions to personnel qualified to assume such responsibility and to perform such functions;
 - accountability for nursing care given by all personnel to whom that care is assigned and delegated; and
 - direct observation of students and evaluation of nursing care given.

Eligibility

Recipients ages 3 years through 20 years who are enrolled in a public school are eligible.

Recipient eligibility for health-related services depends upon whether:

1. The recipient is Medicaid eligible when services are provided;
2. The recipient's need for treatment has been ordered by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner; and
3. The recipient receives the service(s) in the public-school setting or a setting identified in a nursing POC/IHP.

Medical Necessity Criteria

- Medicaid accepts the medical necessity criteria for beginning, continuing, and terminating treatment as documented in an established plan of care ordered by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. Services must be within the scope of practice and comply with other licensure rules as outlined in the North Carolina Nurse Practice Act. **A verbal or a written order must be obtained for services prior to the start of the services. Backdating is not allowed.**
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Provider Eligibility Requirements

- Licensed registered nurses (RN) or licensed practical nurses (LPN) under the supervision of a registered nurse. Nurses must be licensed to practice in the State of NC. Certain tasks may be delegated by the RN to unlicensed school personnel. Delegated staff are school or contracted staff such as teachers, teacher assistants, therapists, school administrators, administrative staff, cafeteria staff, or personal care aides.
 - The RN determines the degree of supervision and training required by the LPN and staff to whom duties have been delegated in accordance with North Carolina Board of Nursing regulations. The RN must be available to delegated staff when not present by phone/pager.
 - The plan of care must be developed by the RN based on a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner's written order.
 - Nurses must be either employed by or under contract with the LEA.
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Documenting Services

- Each provider (nurse/LEA) must maintain and allow DMA to access the following documentation for each individual:
 - The patient name and Medicaid identification number.
 - A copy of the plan of care/individual healthcare plan.
 - A copy of the MD, PA, or NP's order for treatment services. Date signed must precede treatment dates.
 - Description of services (intervention and outcome/client response) performed and dates of service.
 - The duration of service (i.e., length of assessment and/or treatment session **in minutes**).
 - The signature of the person providing each service.

Documenting Services, continued

- For medication administration under Nursing Services, a flow sheet or equivalent documentation (medication administration record) must be used by the nurse or delegated individual. The documentation must show the nurse/delegated individual's full name and title. The date and time administered as well as nurse/individual's initials and title must be written after each medication given. A narrative note summarizing the medication administered must be **completed at least weekly** by the RN with input from the delegated person administering medication. This note should document results from the medication, side effects of medication and any other pertinent data.
- For delegated services there must be documentation of training and validation of competency by the RN to the person who will be performing the procedure. In addition, **documentation at a minimum monthly**, that the RN monitors the care of the student to ensure that the procedure is being performed safely and effectively. The documentation usually is in a form on which the school nurse and the assistant sign and date that the procedure is being done correctly.

Documenting Services, continued

- Documentation does not have to be lengthy and can be accomplished in a couple of sentences. It does, however, have to be clear to a reviewer to support the services billed.
- **The student's POC/IHP, does not serve as documentation sufficient to demonstrate that a service was actually provided, to justify its medical need, or to develop a Medicaid claim.** The POC/IHP represents a plan of care showing what services are to be provided and at what frequency. It does not document the provision of these services.

Treatment Services

- Under Nursing Services, collaboration with the student's primary physician regarding all medical/mental health-related medically necessary services that are outlined in the nursing POC/IHP is encouraged. It is important that the student's primary physician be aware of the health-related services being received by the student in the school.
- Time spent for preparation, processing of claims, documentation regarding billing or service provision, and/or travel is not billable to N.C. Medicaid or to any other payment source, since it is a part of the treatment process which was considered in the determination of the rate per unit of service. Under Nursing Services, any medical services such as acute illness or injury and routine services rendered to all students, are not billable if they are not designated in the POC/IHP.

Billing

- **Nursing Services Code Unit of Service**

- T 1002(1 unit = 15 minutes) for RN services

- T 1003(1 unit = 15 minutes) for LPN services

- S 5125(1 unit = 15 minutes) for delegated staff services

References and Links

- <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/medicaid-bulletins> Check monthly for bulletin policy updates
- <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/clinical-coverage-policies/specialized-therapies-clinical-coverage-policies> NC LEA Medicaid Policy 10c
- <https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/finance-grants/medicaid-in-education/resources> DPI EC Medicaid Resource Page
- <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/finance/admin-claiming/index.html>
- <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-and-systems/hie/fee-for-service/index.html>
- <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/claims-and-billing>