

To:  
School-Based  
Services  
Providers

HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Teachers' time covered only for medically-related services

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly HCFA, has clarified that Wisconsin Medicaid can only cover medically related services. Therefore, Wisconsin Medicaid can reimburse school-based services (SBS) providers only for the following types of services (TOS) performed by teachers under the SBS benefit:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings when the child is present.
- Delegated nursing acts.

### Only medical services covered by Wisconsin Medicaid

As stated in s. 1905(a) of the Social Security Act, Wisconsin Medicaid can reimburse providers only for medical services. Therefore, under the school-based-services (SBS) benefit, Wisconsin Medicaid can reimburse SBS providers only for the following types of services performed by special education teachers, diagnostic teachers, or Department of Public Instruction licensed teachers:

- *Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.* Wisconsin Medicaid covers IEP meetings during which Medicaid-covered SBS are discussed *when the child is present.*

- *Delegated nursing acts.* Although s. 118.29, Wis. Stats., allows school staff to dispense medication without it being a delegated nursing act, Wisconsin Medicaid only covers a medically related service provided by a teacher (or other school personnel) when it is a *delegated nursing act* by the school nurse and documented as such.

### Reminder: Only face-to-face time covered

As stated in the School-Based Services Handbook, Wisconsin Medicaid covers only face-to-face encounter time spent with the child for all SBS. Face-to-face time is the time any SBS personnel, both teachers and medical professionals, spend with the child present in the course of providing the service. This means Wisconsin Medicaid covers:

- Testing and assessments — Only for the time when the SBS medical professional is in direct contact with the child.
- Individualized Education Program meetings — Only for the time when the *child is present* at the meeting.

Wisconsin Medicaid does not pay separately for any non-face-to-face time. Non-face-to-face time includes the time that providers spend in preparation and follow-up *without* the child present, such as when:

- Reviewing and scoring records and tests.
- Writing reports.
- Communication and consultation (without the child present) related to the IEP Team or IEP service with other professionals, staff, or parents.
- Meeting with parents regarding the IEP (without the child present).

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/).