

November 18, 2008

# MEDICAID BULLETIN

MHRC

**TO: Local Education Agencies (LEAs)**

**SUBJECT: LEA Medicaid Provider Manual Clarifications and Changes**

**Effective November 1, 2008**, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has made clarifications and changes to information stated in the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) Provider Manual as listed below:

1. In Section 2, under the heading of General Information, Evaluations, the first paragraph should read: **The evaluation must occur prior to the provision of the initial Medicaid Rehabilitative Therapy Service. The evaluation must be conducted by an enrolled Medicaid provider who bills DHHS for the service after receiving the referral from another Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA).**

If the evaluation indicates treatment is needed, then the Medicaid provider of service must write their own Treatment Plan following the completion of the evaluation.

Additionally, we are adding a third paragraph to clarify Re-evaluations:

**A re-evaluation is performed subsequent to the initial evaluation and relates to the disorder. A re-evaluation must be conducted annually for each beneficiary; however, a re-evaluation can be conducted within a six-month time frame. A re-evaluation must be completed when enough time has passed to accurately assess the beneficiary's progress. This service may be performed twice a year. Signature and date of signature on evaluations and re-evaluation are mandated requirements.**

2. In Section 2, regarding Referrals, the first bullet should read: **Be updated no later than the annual renewal of the IEP and re-evaluation.**
3. In Section 2, under the heading of Clinical Service Note, documentation of length of time (either in minutes or units) is required. Additionally when the policy calls for a signature with date, the month, day and year are all required.

4. Treatment Plans are required of Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Speech Language Pathologists. The Medicaid provider of service must write their own Treatment Plan upon completion of the evaluation, if the evaluation indicates treatment is needed.
5. Under Section 2 of the LEA Manual, in order to be compliant with the statutory provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), DHHS will no longer require that “objectives” be included in student Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and has deleted all references to “objectives” for IEPs. **Effective November 1, 2008, IEPs should reflect only annual goals.** Benchmarks and short-term objectives are still required by IDEA for children with disabilities who take alternate assessments aligned to alternate achievement standards.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to your Program Coordinator at (803) 898-2655. Your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program is appreciated.

/s/

Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mhhw

**Note:** To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select “Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)” for instructions.