**Why do schools bill Medicaid?**

Louisiana Medicaid allows schools to be reimbursed for certain health services they provide in schools. By getting a partial reimbursement from Medicaid, the school is able to add additional health services for students.

**What types of services can a school bill Medicaid for?**

Schools can bill for: speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, some nursing services, counseling services, personal care services and special transportation.

**Does the school need my permission to bill Medicaid?**

Yes. The school needs one-time, written consent from you to bill Medicaid for services provided to your child during the school day. After that consent is given, schools will also provide you with an annual reminder – either in a letter or the school handbook.

**If I give my permission, can I take it back later?**

Yes. Once you give your written permission for the school to bill Medicaid, you can revoke it at any time by notifying the school in writing.

**If the school bills Medicaid for services, will it affect the services my child can receive outside of school?**

No. Students are allowed to receive services both during the school day and after school. Giving this consent will have no affect on their ability to receive other services.

**My child’s service provider outside of school says that if the school bills Medicaid, the outside provider can’t bill the same day. Is that true?**

No. Many providers are confused by the school-based program because it operates differently than the rest of Medicaid. The school billing for services will have no impact on an outside provider being able to bill for services. Students can even receive services at school and from an outside provider on the same day. If they run into any issues, they can email sbmp@la.gov for help.

**If I do not give consent to bill Medicaid, will my child still receive IEP services?**

Yes. School districts are required to provide all IEP services even if they cannot bill Medicaid. But remember, your consent provides the school with additional monies to enhance health services to students.

**Will I have to pay any money for these services?**

No. All necessary services are provided to students for free by the school.

**If my child receives healthcare services such as speech therapy from a private provider, can he receive speech therapy from the school system also?**

Yes. Parents are encouraged to seek services within the school system because therapeutic interventions that are set in natural environments and embedded in the instructional program increase the effectiveness of intervention and the achievement goals.

**Does giving this consent have any impact on me, my child or our families Medicaid benefits?**

No. When the school bills Medicaid for services, it has no impact on your child, you or your families Medicaid benefits.

**I still have more questions. Who can I talk to?**

You can talk to officials at your child’s school or you can email the Louisiana Department of Education at sbmp@la.gov.