

6.16a. Mental Health Assessment and Treatment in the School Setting

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Licensed professionals practicing as individuals providers as defined in COMAR 10.09.59.04 and appropriately licensed staff under outpatient mental health centers (OMHCs) as defined in COMAR 10.63.03.05 may provide services to an individual who has a mental health diagnosis and be reimbursed by Medicaid for mental health services provided in the school setting when billed with the place of service (POS) 03 for schools.

Services should be consistent with those provided to individuals in the community and be appropriate to the school setting, such as:

1. Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation (initial assessment)
2. Individual and group therapy (ongoing)

This shall apply to schools with a School-Based Health Center, as well as those in formal partnership with a community-based provider.

SERVICE RULES

Local school system administrative staff (e.g., superintendent, other authorized central office staff) should communicate with individual school administrative staff (e.g., school principal) granting approval for clinicians to perform services in the school setting.

Services delivered in the school setting may not duplicate services delivered by programs or counselors out of the school setting on the same day. Providers should be familiar with the combination of services rules found here: http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/clin_ut/Combination-of-MH-Services.pdf

If a school opts to participate, they should alert their school staff and teachers through an official memorandum that mental health treatment is now available in their school and should include appropriate information about process and contacts.

The school and clinicians are responsible for identifying a space that ensures confidentiality for identified participants.

Types of services should be consistent with those provided to individuals served in the community and as allowed by scope of practice as identified through professional Boards.

All clinical notes should be maintained in the provider's office using storage standards set forth by HIPAA.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Participants are currently enrolled in the school at which mental health services are being provided and are eligible as defined in COMAR 10.09.59.05. In order to be reimbursed by Medicaid, the participant must meet required medical necessity criteria and at least one of the diagnoses outlined in COMAR 10.09.70.02.J.

PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY

Licensed mental health professionals practicing as individual providers and appropriately licensed staff under OMHCs are eligible per their respective COMAR outlined under Description of Services.

Providers would ensure that all clinicians assigned to work in the school setting will have completed background checks/fingerprinting.

COMBINATION OF SERVICES

Relevant limitations are listed in COMAR 10.09.59.07.

AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

Authorization requirements may be found in COMAR 10.09.59.08.

CLAIMS REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Payment procedures may be found in COMAR 10.09.59.09.

Please note: Providers should use POS 03 when billing for services located in the schools.