

To: TennCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
From: Johnny Lai, Director, Managed Care Operations
Date: June 22, 2022
Subject: School-Based Services Updates

Please be advised of the following updates as it pertains to medically necessary, covered school-based services:

Public Chapter 695

Governor Bill Lee signed [Public Chapter 695](#) into law on March 18, 2022, with an effective date of July 1, 2022. This amendment to the Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49 and Title 63, permits Tennessee-licensed Physical Therapists (PTs), Occupational Therapists (OTs), Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), and Audiologists practicing in a school setting to refer and order services, within their scope of practice, for the purposes of providing Individualized Education Program (IEP) services.

Effective with dates of services beginning July 1, 2022, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must obtain a referral or order from the child's licensed PT, OT, SLP, or audiologist who has appropriately evaluated and assessed the child for IEP services, or alternatively, the child's Primary Care Provider (PCP) or treating provider when billing a TennCare Managed Care Organization (MCO) for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and audiology services in the IEP. LEAs must continue to obtain a referral or order from the child's PCP or treating provider when billing TennCare for all other covered, medically necessary IEP services.

School-Based Nursing Services Guidelines

In collaboration with all three TennCare MCOs, the Division of TennCare updated the school-based nursing guidelines that were originally implemented in July 2021. The updated guidelines, which were shared with the TennCare MCOs in March 2022, shall be effective with dates of services beginning July 1, 2022, to include the following key changes:

- Medically necessary, covered school nursing services listed in the guidelines shall be billable when included in the IEP or Individual Health Plan (IHP); and
- Three additional billable school-based nursing services (i.e., assessment and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, blood glucose monitoring and testing, and medication administration for medically fragile students) shall be reimbursable when determined medically necessary and included in student's IEP or IHP.

Additionally, TennCare MCOs shall contract with any school district that seeks to contract with the MCO to receive reimbursement for medically necessary, covered school-based services based on the MCOs' standard fee schedule. Please ensure TennCare's updated nursing guidelines are included in your MCOs' provider manual by July 1, 2022.

Timely Filing Guidelines

In July 2021, TennCare extended timely filing to 365 calendar days from the date of service for all medically necessary, covered IEP services. Effective with date of services beginning July 1, 2022, this standard shall also apply to all medically necessary, covered school nursing services included in the IHP. These timely filing guidelines apply to both TennCare and CoverKids members.

School-Based Services for CoverKids Members

Please be advised that all medically necessary, covered school-based services rendered to CoverKids members are reimbursable TennCare services. These services include school-based medical services included in the IEP and IHP, and school-based behavioral health services. As a reminder, medically necessary, covered school-based behavioral health services are not required to be included in the student's IEP to be billable.

Parent Consent/Notice of Access Forms

Effective with date of services beginning July 1, 2022, the Division of TennCare updated the parent consent form that the students' parent or legal guardian is required to sign to allow LEAs to bill TennCare for medically necessary, covered school-based services. Based on the updates, the signed consent form shall be valid for as long as the student is receiving IEP, IHP or IFSP services or until the parent revokes consent. Therefore, the TennCare MCOs shall no longer require a new signed consent form at least annually or whenever the IEP, IHP or IFSP is updated beginning with the implementation of the updated consent form. Additionally, the TennCare Kids Notice of Access form has also been updated. Both updated forms shall apply to IEP, IHP and IFSP services. Additionally, a Spanish and Arabic version of these forms are available. Please ensure these attached forms are accessible to providers via your MCOs' provider website. TennCare and the TN Department of Education will also make these forms available via their websites.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the school-based services updates, please contact Shawn Smith at 615-507-6865 or shawn.smith@tn.gov.