Primary Care Providers and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)

The Medicaid School-Based Health Services Program is used to generate Medicaid reimbursement for medically-related services provided to eligible students. Medicaid requires physician/physician extender authorization to show that certain services in the IEP are medically necessary. **IEP review is a reimbursable service.**

Information on how to obtain reimbursement is available in the Vermont School Based Health Services Program Manual, page 39. A link is available, at:

 <http://www.msb-services.com/VT/Guidance/VT_Manual_FY17.pdf>.

The Department of Vermont Health Access encourages all providers to review and endorse Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for children in their practices.

If you are uncomfortable about reviewing an IEP because the child has not been seen within the past year, consider reaching out to the family to schedule a reimbursable well-child visit.

You may approve all or any part of the services documented in the Physician Authorization form. The approval only determines Medicaid coverage. The child will continue to receive the services documented in the plan, but your comments can influence plan development as well as coverage if you become involved in the development process. You may write any comments directly on the physician authorization document.

Some points to consider when reviewing an IEP:

* Does the diagnosis demonstrate medical necessity?
* Does the treatment plan meet the definition of Medical Necessity?
* Are the services effective for the condition? Does the service have adequate research support?
* Is the amount, frequency, level and duration of services appropriate?
* Is school the most appropriate setting for the service? Home/community based services are also available for issues specific to the home/community, such as equipment acquisition, home programming, and family training.
* Is the service only as specialized as necessary? Are natural supports maximized?
* Which level of support is most efficacious? Direct (provided by a professional), Indirect (provided by a paraprofessional with guidance from a professional), or Consultative (guidance provided by the professional to school personnel, to enable the child to receive natural supports.
* What might be missed in the educational day if the service is a ‘pull-out’ model?

For more information about the role of the primary care provider in the IEP process, please review the following  American Academy of Pediatrics  articles, available at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/104/1/124> and <http://www.aappublications.org/news/2017/01/09/IEP010917>.