



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Randy I. Dorn Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

September 24, 2015

() Action Required
(X) Informational

MEMORANDUM NO. 051-15M SPECIAL EDUCATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
Educational Service District Special Education Directors
School District Special Education Directors
Educational Service District Business Managers
School District Business Managers

FROM: Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Telemedicine as a Reimbursable School-based Health Care Service

CONTACT: Mary Ellen Parrish, Special Education Fiscal Program Coordinator
Phone: 360-725-6075, TTY: 360-586-0126
Email: maryellen.parrish@k12.wa.us

Since 2009–10, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Special Education Office has offered grants to local school districts for start-up costs associated with implementing an infrastructure of telemedicine options. To date, thirty-one districts have received funds to assist in the provision of related services (speech language, occupational and physical therapy services). Telemedicine has proven to be a viable option for districts that are unable to obtain qualified related service providers despite ongoing recruitment efforts and limited availability of contracted service providers.

Telemedicine describes services provided when a qualified health care practitioner uses Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant, interactive, real-time audio and video telecommunications technology (including web-based applications) to deliver covered services that are within their scope of practice to a client at a site other than the site where the provider is located. In the school setting, telemedicine provides two-way, real time interactive communication between the student and the provider at the distant site.

Effective October 1, 2015 telemedicine will be covered by the Health Care Authority (HCA) as an allowable mode to deliver school-based service eligible for Medicaid reimbursement when services are delivered by a qualified practitioner to a student in a school setting.

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Our office is pleased that HCA is responding quickly to the recent change in the Medicaid definition of telemedicine services in order to implement the change in school-based healthcare services this school year. The HCA will file an official rule on October 1. Additionally, the School-Based Health Care Services Provider Guide and the Physician

Related services Provider Guide will be updated with detailed instruction on how to bill for telemedicine.

To prepare for future requests for reimbursement for services, school districts should update and file HCA Form [12-325 School-Based Healthcare Services Update](#) Form.

Thank you for your efforts to deliver quality services and maximize all available revenues for eligible students in our state.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum or attachments, please contact the Special Education office at 360-725-6075 or email maryellen.parrish@k12.wa.us. The agency TTY number is 360-586-0126.

This memorandum is also available on OSPI's website at:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2015.aspx>.

K-12 EDUCATION

Gil Mendoza, Ed.D.

Deputy Superintendent

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Douglas H. Gill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

RD:DG:mep

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