

New Hampshire Medicaid to Schools Behavioral Health Services Overview



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Introduction

New Hampshire recognizes that students' emotional wellbeing is vital to their ability to learn and be members of the school community. Behavioral health (mental health and substance use) issues amongst students can be and are being addressed in the school setting. This brief is intended to summarize the current requirements for accessing Medicaid reimbursement to assist in building and maintaining access to school-based behavioral health services.

Medicaid Reimbursement Requirements for Behavioral Health Services

In order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, behavioral health services delivered in the school setting must be:

1. Delivered to a **Medicaid-eligible student**. **Parental consent** to bill the student's Medicaid must also be obtained in accordance with 34 CFR 300.154 (d)(2)(iv), Ed 1120.08, and 42 CFR 300.154(d)(2)(v).
2. Included in a student's **care plan**, defined as "a written health care plan, including, but not limited to, an individualized education program or a 504 plan, which is maintained in the student's file and documents and supports the medical necessity of all claims to NH Medicaid for FFP [federal financial participation]."¹
3. **Covered** under the NH Medicaid to Schools Rule².
4. **Medically necessary**, defined as "reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate, or prevent the worsening of, conditions that endanger life, cause pain, result in illness or infirmity, threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause physical deformity or malfunction, and no other equally effective course of treatment is available or suitable for the student requesting the medically necessary service"³
5. **Ordered by a qualified healthcare professional**.
6. **Delivered by a qualified healthcare provider** who is appropriately licensed or certified according to the Medicaid to Schools Rule.

Covered Behavioral Health Services and Provider Qualifications

¹ [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.02 \(d\)](#)

² [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04](#)

³ [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.02 \(o\)](#)

The following table outlines covered behavioral health services and qualified Medicaid providers to deliver those services. More detailed descriptions of covered services can be found in the [Medicaid to Schools Provider Manual](#).

Service Category	Covered Services	Service Providers
Psychiatry (N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 (w-y))	Psychiatric evaluation and diagnosis Psychiatric treatment	Psychiatrists licensed to practice in NH as defined in RSA 135-C:2, XII or the state in which they practice (must be either board certified or board eligible according to the most recent regulations of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. or its successor organization) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) with psychiatric specialty pursuant to RSA 326-B:18
Psychology (N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 (z-ab))	Psychological testing and evaluation Psychodiagnostic testing Psychological counseling (individual and group treatment) Family counseling, during which the student shall be present at 51% of the counseling session.	School Psychologists or Associate School Psychologists certified by the state board of education in NH and licensed by the NH board of psychologists Psychologists or Associate Psychologists licensed by the NH board of psychologists pursuant to RSA 329-B Physicians APRNs with psychiatric specialty pursuant to RSA 326-B:18
Mental Health (N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 (ac-ad))	Behavior management Individual and group counseling Family counseling, during which the student shall be present at 51% of the counseling session Crisis intervention	Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) licensed pursuant to RSA 330-A:18 Pastoral Psychotherapists licensed pursuant to RSA 330-A:17 Clinical Mental Health Counselors (CMHCs) licensed pursuant to RSA 330-A:19 Marriage and Family Therapists licensed pursuant to RSA 330-A:21 Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (MLADCs) for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment and Recovery Support (N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 (ae))	Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services shall be provided by the licensed qualified providers described in He-W 513 ,	Certified Recovery Support Workers Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADCs) Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (MLADCs) See RSA 330-C for more information on

	and in accordance with the requirements in He-W 513	licensing, certification, and scope of practice
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It is important to note that services provided by school guidance counselors are **not** covered unless **any** of the following conditions are met:

- The individual has a valid healthcare license issued by the appropriate licensing board, commission, or council and is acting within the scope of their license
- The individual is a rehabilitative assistant providing rehabilitative assistance services pursuant to [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 \(af-ai\)](#). In this case, the activities of this individual must be reviewed every 30 days by a qualified licensed professional pursuant to [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.04 \(aj\)](#)
- The individual currently holds a certification as a BCBA.⁴

Orders for Behavioral Health Services

To be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, covered behavioral health services must be ordered by a qualified healthcare professional. Providers ordering services that will be billed to Medicaid must be enrolled with NH Medicaid as an ordering, referring, or prescribing (ORP) provider or non-billing rendering provider and able to order services under their scope of practice. Services can be broadly ordered by **physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and physician assistants**. Many behavioral health providers also have ordering privileges under their respective licenses. The following providers can order behavioral health services within their scope of practice:

- Clinical Mental Health Counselors (can order mental health services within scope of practice)
- Clinical Social Workers (can order mental health services within scope of practice)
- Master Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (can order alcohol and drug counseling services)
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- School Psychologists

More information on Medicaid to Schools ordering providers can be found [here](#).

⁴ [N.H. Code Admin. R. He-W 589.05 \(t\)](#)

Conclusion

In New Hampshire, school-based behavioral health services are reimbursable by Medicaid within specific requirements for type of service, provider type, and medical necessity. Districts are encouraged to work with the NH Medicaid to Schools Training & Technical Assistance Center to maintain and increase access to behavioral health services in the school setting.