



How to Bill for Nursing Services

School-Based Health Care Services Program
May 2017

Overview of SBHS Program

The School-Based Health Care Services (SBHS) Program is an optional Medicaid program which reimburses contracted school districts (SD) and educational service districts (ESD) for providing health-related services to students with IEPs and IFSPs. Services must be:

- Medically necessary
- Prescribed or recommended by a physician or other licensed health care provider operating within the provider's scope of practice under state law
- Included in the student's IEP or IFSP
- Provided in a school setting or via telemedicine if provided by a provider at a distant site
- Provided by WA State DOH licensed providers

School districts are allowed to receive Medicaid reimbursement per section 1903(c) and 1905(a) of the Social Security Act and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

Client Eligibility

- Children who meet definition of an “at-risk infant or toddler” or a “child with a disability” per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Birth through age 2 (Part C) with IFSP and age 3 through age 20 (Part B) with IEP
- Title XIX Medicaid-Categorically Needy (CN) or Medically Needy (MN)
 - Children enrolled in Apple Health Managed Care Organization (MCO) receive SBHS fee-for-service
 - Private insurance must be billed primary to Apple Health (Medicaid)

SBHS Covered Services

- Evaluations when a child is determined to need early intervention or special education related services
- Re-evaluations to determine whether a child continues to need early intervention or special education related services
- Health-care related services included in the child's IEP or IFSP limited to:
 - Audiology services
 - Counseling/mental health services
 - **Nursing services**
 - Occupational therapy services
 - Physical therapy services
 - Psychological assessments
 - Speech-language therapy services

Nursing Services

Covered nursing services include:

- Medical and remedial services ordered by a physician or other licensed health care provider within the provider's scope of practice
- Assessments, re-assessments, and treatment services, provided to do all of the following:
 - Prevent disease, disability, or the progression of other health conditions
Prolong life
 - Promote physical health, mental health, and efficiency

Nursing services must be included in the child's IEP or IFSP in order to be reimbursable through the SBHS Program.

Nursing Services, cont.

- Blood glucose testing and analysis
- Bowel/diarrhea care
- Colostomy care
- Catheterization care
- Chest wall manipulation/postural drainage
- Dressing/wound care
- Feeding by hand
- IV care/feedings
- Medication administration
- Nebulizer treatment
- Pump feeding
- Seizure management
- Stoma care
- Testing oxygen saturation levels
- Tracheotomy care
- Tube feedings
- Vital signs monitoring

This list of nursing services is not exclusive.

Non-Covered Services

- Applied behavioral analysis (ABA) therapy
- Attending meetings
- Charting
- Equipment preparation when student is not present
- Evaluations that do not result in an IEP or IFSP
- Instructional assistant contact
- Observation
- Parent consultation
- Parent contact
- Planning
- Preparing and sending correspondence
- Professional consultation
- Report writing
- Review of records
- School district staff accompanying a child to and from the school bus
- Teacher contact
- Test interpretation
- Travel and transportation

These activities are not reimbursable through the SBHS Program. The above activities are either built into the rate of the covered nursing codes, are not a Medicaid covered service, or the activity is covered through a different Medicaid program.

Who May Provide Nursing Services?

- Registered nurse (RN)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Non-credentialed school staff delegated certain tasks by RN
- RN/LPN must hold current **WA State DOH licensure**
- RN/LPN may be a district employee or contracted through nursing agency
- **ESA is not required to bill Medicaid**

RN and LPN licensing requirements can be found on the Department of Health website:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate>

DOH Provider Qualifications

- Registered Nurse:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/NursingCommission/NurseLicensing/RegisteredNurse>

- Licensed Practical Nurse:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/NursingCommission/NurseLicensing/LicensedPracticalNurse>

SBHS Billable Nursing Codes

Procedure Code	Description
T1001	Nursing assessment/eval
T1002	RN services up to 15 minutes
T1003	LPN services up to 15 minutes

Detailed instructions on how to bill for nursing codes is available in the [SBHS Billing Guide](#).

SBHS Nursing Codes Fee Schedule

Procedure Code	Maximum Allowable Fee
T1001	\$27.52
T1002	\$6.88
T1003	\$3.76

How to Bill for Nursing Services

- For codes timed per 15 minutes (T1002/T1003), a minimum of 8 minutes must be provided to bill for one unit

Minutes	Units
0 min-7 mins	0 units
8 mins-22 mins	1 unit
23 mins-37 mins	2 units
38 mins-52 mins	3 units
53 mins-67 mins	4 units
68 mins-82 mins	5 units

- Minutes should be added up throughout the day to get total billable minutes
 - For example: If a student receives nursing services multiple times in one day, minutes should be added and divided by 15 to get the total # of billable units

Example 1

Sarah receives nursing services per her IEP. On Monday she visits the school RN four times as follows:

9:00-9:05 (5 minutes of code T1002)

10:31-10:42 (11 minutes of code T1002)

1:14-1:34 (20 minutes of code T1002)

2:00-2:04 (4 minutes of code T1002)

40 total timed minutes = 3 units

Appropriate billing for 40 minutes is 3 units. Although the nursing services provided between 9:00-9:05 and 2:00-2:04 equaled less than 8 minutes, the total minutes for Monday equals 40 minutes which is equivalent to 3 units.

Example 2

- Joseph requires daily medication administration and receives nursing services per his IEP.
 - On Monday, Joseph visits the school RN from **9:00-9:05** to receive his medication. The nurse cannot bill for Monday's services as a minimum of 8 minutes is required to bill for code T1002.
 - On Tuesday, Joseph visits the school RN from **9:00-9:05** and again from **1:00-1:10** to receive his medication. The nurse can bill for 1 unit of T1002 for Tuesday as a total of 15 minutes of nursing services were provided.
 - On Wednesday, Joseph visits the nurse's office from **9:00-9:15** and sees a para-educator who is on duty. The RN has delegated medication administration to the para-ed. The RN may bill for 1 unit of T1002 as a total of 15 minutes of nursing services were provided.
 - On Thursday, Joseph visits the nurse's office from **10:00-10:08** and sees the LPN who is on duty. The RN has delegated medication administration to the LPN. The LPN may bill for 1 unit of T1003 as a total of 15 minutes of LPN services were provided.

Documentation Requirements

- Sufficient documentation is required to justify billed claims
- Treatment notes must include:
 - Date of service
 - Time in, time out
 - CPT or HCPCS code and # of billed units for each service provided
 - Description of each service provided
 - Child's progress related to each service
 - Note regarding individual or group therapy
 - Provider's printed name, handwritten or electronic signature, and title
 - Assistants (LPNs, school staff) must have supervising RN cosign all treatment notes

All records must be maintained for six years from date of service. Records may be stored electronically.

Benefits of SBHS Program

- SBHS Program allows SDs/ESDs to recover portion of the cost incurred for providing health related services to Medicaid eligible students
- Annual reimbursement to SDs/ESDs for nursing services ranges from \$1,000 to \$8,000
- Funding can be used in variety of ways
 - Hiring additional staff
 - Assistive technology
 - Professional Development

Over 200 school districts contract with SBHS, but less than 30 districts billed for nursing services during 2015–16 school year.

Questions?

More Information:

<http://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/programs-and-services/school-based-health-care-services-sbhs>

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