



MaineCare in Education: Accessing MaineCare in Schools

At this time, there are three ways in which medically necessary MaineCare services may be accessed in Maine schools:

1. School-based services program
2. School health clinics
3. Provider discretion

School-Based Services Program

To be considered a school-based service, the service must be “medically necessary” and be listed on a student’s Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). It is the MaineCare member’s IEP or IFSP team who decides what medically necessary services are needed for a member to access his or her education. The services that are listed in the member’s IEP or IFSP are the medically necessary services reimbursed through this program.

Covered services include:

- Behavioral Health
- Nursing Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Medical Evaluations
- Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations
- Specialized Transportation
- Speech and Hearing Services, including Audiology Services

A MaineCare member may receive school-based services *and* he or she may receive additional services outside of school. For example, if a member’s IEP states they will receive two sessions per week of speech therapy at school, that is what will be written on their IEP. Those services can be provided to the member at school, and the school or provider can submit the claim to MaineCare for reimbursement.

If the parent schedules additional speech therapy with a provider outside of school (either the same or a different provider) with a referral, the student can receive services in addition to the school services through this program.

School Health Clinics

Some school districts operate school health clinics in Maine. Through these clinics, students may receive services and MaineCare will be billed for the services provided to MaineCare members.

Provider Discretion

Some schools may give MaineCare providers permission to utilize space in the school where they can provide medical services to members who do not have an IEP or IFSP. For example, a physical therapist may see a student in a school building after school because a member's primary care physician has provided a referral for the service.

As long as the provider has followed all MaineCare guidelines, the student may potentially receive services at the school instead of the therapist's office. Although the service is taking place at a school, this is not considered a school-based service because the referral was not due to services included on an IEP or an IFSP, provided through IDEA. MaineCare does **NOT** consider this to be a school-based service.

MaineCare providers must deliver all services in accordance with the MaineCare Benefits Manual.

