



Attention Local Educational Agency Providers: Guidance on Occupational Therapy Coverage and Requirements for the School-Based Medicaid Program

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana is sharing [IB25-18: Attention Local Educational Agency \(LEA\) Providers: Guidance on Occupational Therapy Coverage and Requirements for the School-Based Medicaid Program \(SBMP\)](#) on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). On May 20, 2025, the Louisiana Register published updates to the Administrative Code Title 46, which addresses referral requirements for occupational therapy (OT) practitioners and coverage of educational OT services. The provision in Subpart F that removes the referral requirement for OT practitioners employed by school systems does not apply to services provided under the School-Based Medicaid Program (SBMP).

According to CMS guidelines, Medicaid must cover medically necessary Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services provided in schools that help correct or improve a child's health condition. These services must be delivered to students who are eligible for Title XIX and IDEA Part B, and must be included in a written service plan recommended by a physician or licensed practitioner acting within their legal scope of practice.

Medicaid does not cover services performed solely for educational purposes, such as academic testing, or those not included in a medically necessary service plan. Additionally, services addressing social or educational needs are not reimbursable. It is important to note that school-based occupational therapy focuses on supporting a student's educational performance, whereas medical occupational therapy addresses broader health and functional needs. Louisiana Medicaid does not reimburse for services deemed educationally necessary alone.

LDH has published Informational Bulletin 25-18 for your reference [IB25-18.pdf](#).

For questions or concerns regarding any bulletin, contact UnitedHealthcare Community Plan at 1-866-675-1607.