

## **Subject: Practitioner Prescription and Medical Provider Authorization Form (MPAF) Updates in the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)**

Date: 05/17/2021

TO: Local Education Agencies (LEA) participating in the SBAP  
FROM: Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs, School-Based ACCESS Program

All health-related services identified in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must be authorized or prescribed by a licensed practitioner acting within their scope of practice and enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. Medically necessary services are ordered or prescribed through a prescription or signed MPAF before the services are eligible for MA payment. The prescription or MPAF must be concurrent with the IEP and obtained on an annual basis, or whenever there is a change to the health-related services in the IEP. (For more details on the MPAF, please see Section 4.2 of the [SBAP Provider Handbook](#).)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency (PHE), many LEAs had difficulty in completing re-evaluations and/or obtaining signed, updated MPAFs within the usual timeframes. To address this concern, the Department issued a communication on May 28, 2020, outlining flexibilities to allow for the extension of existing prescriptions or MPAFs when health-related services for the student remain unchanged. This notice is to inform LEAs that effective June 30, 2021 the flexibilities for prescriptions and MPAFs that were provided in the Department's May 28, 2020 communication shall terminate.

The Department of Human Services is providing the following guidance.

- Prescriptions or MPAFs issued prior to the public health emergency will be considered current through June 30, 2021, provided that the services in the IEP remain unchanged.
- Any health-related services identified on the IEP and ordered or prescribed through a prescription or signed MPAF may continue to be billed through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- LEAs must secure a prescription or signed MPAF concurrent with the student's valid IEP as explained in Section 4.2 of the [SBAP Provider Handbook](#).
- All health-related services documented in a student's IEP must be ordered or prescribed through a prescription or signed MPAF before the services are compensable through SBAP.
- The prescription or signed MPAF must continue to indicate frequency and duration, as well as group or individual, for each health-related service compensable through SBAP.
- Prescriptions and MPAFs may be completed using electronic signature. See Sections 4.2 and 5.3 of the [SBAP Provider Handbook](#) for requirements for use of electronic signature.

This notice supersedes the prescription and MPAF guidance issued by the Department on May 28, 2020.

LEAs are encouraged to stay up to date on all current IEP guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, [Bureau of Special Education](#).

Communication related to direct services allowable via telemedicine is available on the [SBAP Webpage](#).

Additional information related to COVID-19 is also available on the [CDC](#) or [CMS](#) websites.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19, to include an FAQ document, can be found on the Department of Human Services website [here](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.

If you have further questions related to submitting claims for direct services during this period of emergency, please email [SBAPsupport@pcgus.com](mailto:SBAPsupport@pcgus.com) or call 1-866-912-2976.