



## **SCHOOL BASED MEDICAID/FAMIS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) allows for some Individualized Education Program (IEP) services to be covered by Medicaid and for Arlington Public Schools (APS) to bill the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). These services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language pathology services, skilled nursing services, personal care assistants, special transportation, and certain evaluations. In order to bill Medicaid, APS must obtain parental consent.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions about the School Based Medicaid program.

**1. Why do schools need parental consent to bill for Medicaid/FAMIS claims?**

APS is required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to obtain parental consent before disclosing information about a student with a disability. This includes providing information to the Medicaid (DMAS) agency.

**2. How often does APS need to get my consent to bill Medicaid/FAMIS for the services outlined in my child's IEP?**

Parental consent is only required one time. Consent is valid while your child is enrolled in APS, until your child no longer receives billable services per the IEP, or until you revoke consent.

**3. My child is not eligible for Medicaid. Do I still need to sign the consent?**

Yes. Your consent will be on file should your child become Medicaid eligible.

**4. What happens if I give consent and change my mind?**

Parental consent is voluntary and can be revoked at any time. If you grant consent and revoke it at a later time, the revocation will not be retroactive and the services performed during the time of consent was in place will be billed to the Medicaid (DMAS) agency. Please contact the Medicaid Coordinator at (703)228-6065 if you want to change your consent decision.

**5. What happens if I do not give consent?**

Your child's educational program is based on his/her educational needs as defined by the IEP. Your consent decision will in no way impact his/her services regardless of the Medicaid/FAMIS consent status. However, denial of consent affects the district's ability to access funds that benefit the education of students with disabilities.

**6. What if my child loses Medicaid/FAMIS benefits?**

APS can only bill for services if a child is identified as receiving Medicaid/FAMIS benefits. Losing Medicaid/FAMIS benefits will not impact the services your child receives in school.

**7. Will my privacy be compromised due to Medicaid/FAMIS billing?**

APS will bill Medicaid in the same manner as a doctor would. APS follows strict federal and state laws that require us to maintain the confidentiality of your health information. Access to your child's information is limited to those directly involved.

**8. Will my private insurance be affected?**

No. APS will not bill your private insurance for IEP related services. It is important for you to know that signing the consent form does not reduce your private insurance benefits nor other Medicaid/FAMIS services that you or your family receive.

**9. Will the school billing count towards the maximum amount of sessions I am allowed for private services?**

No. When APS seeks reimbursement, these sessions will not impact the maximum amount of sessions allowed when receiving private services. Medicaid/FAMIS services received from an outside practitioner is authorized separately from services provided in the school setting.

**10. Why bill for Medicaid through the school system?**

The billing helps offset the costs of services provided to students.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Medicaid Coordinator, Catina Claytor.**

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