

# Virtual Special Education Services Reimbursable Through Medicaid

## Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs are for Medicaid clerks, case managers and business managers.

### Telemedicine

1. **Can an SU or School District, who is an enrolled Medicaid provider for the School-Based Health Services Program, continue to bill Medicaid for certain Special Education Services during COVID-19 school building closures, pursuant to a student's IEP?**

Yes, the SBHS program is temporarily allowing supervisory unions and school districts to provide, track, and bill for program eligible IEP services through telemedicine while the student is affected by school closures.

2. **What is telemedicine?**

According to the VT Department of Health Access (DVHA) website, telemedicine is real-time, audio-video communication tools that connect providers and patients in different locations when possible<sup>1</sup>.

3. **What kind of audio-visual communication tool can we use to deliver Special Education Services that are to be billed to Medicaid?**

DVHA has temporarily waived the need for these tools to be HIPAA compliant, we would strongly encourage you to use a free platform like [Doxy.me](https://doxy.me). However, Skype or Zoom would also be an acceptable tool for audio-visual communication.

4. **What if a student doesn't have internet access at their home?**

The Agency of Education has approved telephone consultation and instruction for Special Education services that do not require visual aids or face to face communication<sup>2</sup>. Please follow up with your Education Medicaid Specialist and Medicaid Unit Administrator if there are students in your region who will only be able to receive program eligible special education services over the telephone.

### Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:  
Jessica Robinson, Medicaid Unit Administrator, at [jessica.robinson@vermont.gov](mailto:jessica.robinson@vermont.gov)

## Eligible Services Questions

1. **Are all services that were eligible for Medicaid reimbursement previously, still eligible?**

Yes, if these services are being *provided directly to a student* through approved telemedicine communication means.

2. **What about the Special Education requirements that an IEP be amended for a change of placement that extends longer than 10 days?**

This rule needs to be followed for services to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. If general education services are being provided according to a continuing education plan that will last longer than 10 days, an IEP amendment showing the change in placement must be completed for the services to be eligible to be billed to Medicaid<sup>2</sup>.

3. **When does the 10 days start?**

Please contact your Education Medicaid Specialist and Medicaid Unit Administrator to discuss what supervisory unions and schools are doing in your area.

4. **What paperwork is required to be on file when an amendment is made without an IEP meeting?**

When a revision/amendment to the IEP is completed without a meeting, the following documents need to be added to the Medicaid file: The IEP cover page showing the date of the amended services, the IEP service page showing the amended services and a completed form 5b. The 5b will include information about how the parent was notified of the change, and must be signed and dated by the case manager. *Please note that a 5b cannot be completed retroactively.*

5. **Can a professional special educator log time spent training parents to provide supports and services to students while schools are closed?**

Yes, that would be included under the professional's case management time, if case management is in the IEP.

6. **Can a related service provider log time spent training parents to provide OT, PT or Speech services to a student while schools are closed?**

Yes, if the **student is present** and receiving the service while the professional gives direction and instruction to the parent.

**7. Are there any differences in how providers need to fill out Medicaid logs for telemedicine services?**

Yes, a record must be kept of who participated in the session (professional provider, student, parent), location of the provider and student (school, home), and the telemedicine communication means used (skype, zoom, doxy, telephone). This is **in addition to** the usual requirements for Medicaid logs.

**8. How should a supervisory union or school report on their calendar school days to the AOE and Education Medicaid team for Medicaid billing purposes?**

At this time, an SU or school district should be **noting any day that their providers are available to provide services** to students. This means that any day that teachers and providers are working and **could be providing services** to students or performing case management duties. Please contact your Education Medicaid Specialist or Medicaid Unit Admin with specific questions.