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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |  
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 91 LCM-92

Date: May 20, 1991

Division: Medical Assistance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: School Supportive Health Services Program

ATTACHMENTS: There are no attachments to this LCM.

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum is to inform local social services districts of the School Supportive Health Services Program.

AUTHORITY: The School Supportive Health Services Program (SSHSP) is being implemented by authority of subsection (c) of Section 1903 of the Social Security Act that was added by section 411 (k)(13)(A) of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-360). The law clarifies Congressional intent that nothing shall preclude Medicaid coverage of services included in a handicapped child's individualized education plan (IEP) pursuant to parts B and H of the Education of the Handicapped Act, respectively.

The federal law is implemented in New York State pursuant to Social Services Law Section 368 (d) and (e).

DESCRIPTION: The SSHSP was developed by the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) and the State Education Department (SED) to assist local school districts in obtaining third party reimbursement for certain diagnostic and related services provided to pupils with handicapping conditions or to pupils suspected of having handicapping conditions. It is

intended that the provision of special education for children with handicapping conditions will be enhanced through the establishment of a process for accessing additional sources for financing of related services.

The School Supportive Health Services (SSHS) may be provided through local school districts or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) special education programs. In providing SSHS, the school districts may also contract with community-based licensed health professionals and clinics.

For those children who are eligible for Medicaid, a request is made to the parent to obtain the child's Medicaid number for billing purposes. The school district must obtain informed consent from the parent for the use of private insurance. If the parent refuses to cooperate with the request for billing information or provide consent, the child will continue to receive the services recommended on the IEP without charge.

The SED will be responsible for the approval of school districts' participation in the SSHSP prior to school district enrollment in the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). Only those districts which have provided the necessary documentation indicating that they have met the criteria for approval, have submitted the signed assurances and have completed a Medicaid Provider Enrollment Form will be approved for participation in SSHSP. SED will notify SDSS of those school districts approved to participate in SSHSP.

SDSS will authorize payment of only the federal Medicaid funds for SSHS provided to Medicaid recipients by school districts enrolled in MMIS. School districts will match these funds through use of State and local education funding. There are no State or local Medicaid dollars being used for this program.

The Division of Medical Assistance is currently working on a similar program for three and four year old children with IEPs. Information on the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program will be provided when it becomes available.

Specific questions about the SSHSP should be referred to Julie Elson at 518-473-5492

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Division of Medical Assistance