



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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**TO:** LEA Superintendents  
LEA Directors/Coordinators of School Counseling  
LEA Directors/Coordinators of School Social Work  
LEA Directors/Coordinators of Exceptional Children Programs

**FROM:** Dr. Eric Hall, Ed.D. *JH*  
Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation

Christie Lynch-Ebert *CLE*  
Director of K-12 Standards, Curriculum and Instruction

Cynthia Floyd *CF*  
Consultant for School Counseling

## NC DIVISION OF HEALTH BENEFITS (DHB, FORMERLY DMA) CHANGES TO CLINICAL COVERAGE POLICY 10-C

Please share this memo with your school administrators, school counselors, school social workers and other relevant district and school personnel. This memo is in reference to revisions to the NC Division of Health Benefits (DHB) Medicaid [Clinical Coverage Policy 10-C](#). A summary of recent Medicaid LEA policy changes can be viewed [here](#).

Revisions to the NC Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) [Clinical Coverage Policy 10-C](#) have expanded the list of eligible local education agency (LEA) providers who can be reimbursed for select educationally relevant psychological and counseling services provided as part of services documented in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Medicaid Policy 10-C now includes Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA), Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate (LCSWA) as qualified service providers, in addition to Licensed Psychologist (LP), Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), and School Psychologist (SP) who DHB already recognized as qualified providers.

This memo is to help clarify how this applies to school counselors and school social workers. There are two primary related factors:

- (1) This does not change the roles or [professional standards](#) of school counselors or school social workers.
- (2) A school counselor must also be licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) by the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and a school social worker must also be licensed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) by the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board for services provided to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

### K-12 STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

If in the provision of the usual responsibilities and comprehensive services, a school counselor who is also an LPC or a school social worker who is also an LCSW provides services that are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, the local education agency may elect to seek reimbursement for those services. However, LEAs are to adhere to the State professional standards and G.S. 115C-316.1 in the provision of services implemented by school counselors and school social workers and not seek to change the services of school counselors and school social workers for the purposes of having them provide reimbursable services.

LEAs are required to provide educationally relevant psychological and/or counseling services as a related service for students with disabilities when the IEP team determines the service is required for the student to access and benefit from his/her educational program. The designation of provider type for related services is not required under IDEA; the IEP team decides which providers are appropriately credentialed and skilled to meet each student's unique needs. LEAs should continue to provide needed services and not seek to add psychological and/or counseling services to a student's IEP primarily because the service is now potentially reimbursable by Medicaid.

LEAs should confer with their legal counsel regarding additional documentation needed regarding LPC or LCSW licensure and personnel contracts. Questions regarding your Medicaid filing process should be directed to your district or charter school Medicaid designee or current Medicaid vendor.

If you have questions regarding school counseling, contact Cynthia Floyd, Consultant for School Counseling, at [Cynthia.floyd@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Cynthia.floyd@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-807-3931.

For questions regarding Medicaid reimbursement for LEAs under DMA Clinical Coverage Policy 10-C, contact Lauren Holahan, Consultant for Medicaid/Occupational Therapy, at [lauren\\_holahan@med.unc.edu](mailto:lauren_holahan@med.unc.edu) or 919-428-7201, or Laurie Ray, Consultant for Medicaid/Physical Therapy, at [laurie\\_ray@med.unc.edu](mailto:laurie_ray@med.unc.edu) or 919) 636-1827.

For questions regarding specific reimbursement procedures/practices, contact your LEA's central office, program director for Exceptional Children and/or vendor.

CC:

Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent for District Support  
Sherry Thomas, Interim Director, Exceptional Children

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