

School Based Health Center Dental FAQ

Q What is the expectation of a Collaborative Practice arrangement in a School Based Health Center setting?

State Education Law permits registered dental hygienists who provide dental services in facilities organized under Article 28 of the Public Health Law to enter into a Collaborative Practice agreement with a licensed and registered dentist who has a formal relationship with the same facility. A "formal" relationship means that the collaborating dentist is either employed by the same Article 28 clinic or has a contract to provide services within the same Article 28 clinic. In the case of a dental hygienist practicing in a School Based Health Center, the collaborating dentist must either be employed or have a contract to provide services in either the School Based Health Center or the Article 28 with whom the School Based Health Center is affiliated. Please see the [New York State Medicaid Update - August 2016 Volume 32 - Number 8](#). The Article 28 Sponsor must have a Dental Director and have SBHC-D or Dental O/P specified on their operating certificate.

Q Does the NYS Medicaid Program have Record Keeping requirements?

Guidance on Record Keeping can be found on pages 12-13 of the [NYS Medicaid Dental Manual](#).

Q Is there a code used to indicate that children are being seen in a School Based Health Center?

Yes, there are specific rate codes for school-based health centers that should be used, which distinguish them from other clinics.

Setting/Sponsor	Service	APG (Ambulatory Patient Groups Visit Rate Code	APG (Ambulatory Patient Groups) Episode Rate Code	Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Rate Code: FQHC Individual Threshold Visit (SBHC)
Hospital	SBHC	1444 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT APG - SCHOOL BASED HEALTH PROJECT	1450 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT APG - SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC (EPISODE)	4016 FQHC - INDIVIDUAL THRESHOLD VISIT (SBHC)
Free-standing Diagnostic & Treatment Center	SBHC	1447 D&T CLINIC APG - SCHOOL BASED HEALTH PROJECT	1453 D&T CLINIC APG - SCHOOL BASED HEALTH (EPISODE)	4016 FQHC - INDIVIDUAL THRESHOLD VISIT (SBHC)

Q Will visits at school-based health centers impact the Medicaid Managed Care plan benefits limitations?

School Based Health Center services are carved out of Managed Care and should be billed as Fee-for-Service. They will not impact MMC limitations.

Q Who is billed for School Based Health Center services?

School Based Health Center services are carved out of Medicaid Managed Care (MMC). If the student has MMC as their primary insurance, then the School Based Health Center should bill Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS). If the student has commercial insurance besides Medicaid, the student's commercial insurance should be billed first. Medicaid is the payor of last resort.

Q What are the expectations for School Based Health Center dental visits to qualify for payment from NYS Medicaid?

- **In facilities billing using Ambulatory Patient Groups (APG) methodology**
Certain procedures are not reimbursed as standalone services. These services are found on the [If Stand Alone, Do Not Pay Procedures \(ISADNP\) List](#) or [Never Pay List](#).

Article 28 clinics, including dental clinics and mobile extension clinics, should refer to the policies outlined in the APG provider manual, and any/all superseding policy updates published via the Medicaid Update.

- **Facilities billing using Prospective Payment System (PPS) methodology** cannot bill a separate threshold rate for certain services as a standalone procedure at a patient encounter where no other reimbursable services are delivered. When performed as standalone procedures these services do not rise to the level of a threshold payment.

Examples of such non-standalone services include:

- Screening of a patient D0190,
- Tobacco counseling D1320,
- Oral Hygiene Instruction D1330,
- Caries Risk Assessment D0601, D0602, D0603
- Dental Case Management D9997
- Nutritional Counseling D1310
- Topical Fluoride Application (D1206, D1208, 99188)

"Unbundling" of procedures does not meet the program's standards of professional practice. School Based Health Center visits with a Registered Dental Hygienist working collaboratively should include dental prophylaxis, screening (or teledental oral evaluation), and topical fluoride application, as appropriate. In models where the dental hygienist captures information and images for a dentist to perform an asynchronous evaluation, the date information is captured is the date of service.

When the patient is seen by a dentist for an in-person follow-up visit at a clinic/institution that is associated with the SBHC on a different date of service, a separate threshold payment is not reimbursed, as this oral exam is bundled with the services performed by the SBHC Registered Dental Hygienist.

For teledental collaborative practice models, refer to billing guidance in the New York State Telehealth Policy Manual [New York State Medicaid Telehealth Policy Manual](#).

Q Can a facility bill a dental hygienist screening and a dentist's exam for the same patient on the same day?

Only one institutional claim should be submitted when a patient is seen by an onsite dentist and dental hygienist on the same date of service. For teledental collaborative practice models, refer to billing guidance in the New York State Telehealth Policy Manual [New York State Medicaid Telehealth Policy Manual](#).

Q As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) billing for school-based treatment with threshold payment model under rate code 4016, am I eligible for threshold reimbursement for a cleaning and screening when provided at separate visits?

No, only one threshold claim can be billed for cleaning and screening provided at separate visits.

Q Does a general School Based Health Center need to be designated "SBHC-D" with dental on their operating certificate to provide oral screening/fluoride varnish by a primary care provider?

No, not if the fluoride varnish is applied in the primary care setting as part of preventive pediatric care. See the April 2015 Medicaid update for more information:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2015/2015-04.htm#att

Q Is there a list of School Based Health Center providers?

[SBHC Dental Provider Directory 2025](#)