The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), as the Oregon’s Medicaid agency, operates the School-Based Health Services Program. OHA helps school programs by allowing them to receive Medicaid reimbursement for certain medical services provided to students with disabilities, as per the child’s Individualized Family Service Program (IFSP). This guide is intended to provide answers to frequently asked questions.

Why does Northwest Regional ESD Early Intervention Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Program bill Medicaid?
The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law governing special education services for eligible infants, children, and youth with disabilities. Under IDEA, the EI/ECSE programs are required to provide health-related services in a school setting to meet the needs of students as outlined in their IFSP. Billing Medicaid for eligible services for special education is a way to bring more money and resources into schools.

What services can the EI/ECSE program bill Medicaid for?
EI/ECSE programs can bill for health-related services when certain conditions are met:
1. Student is Medicaid eligible and parent consent to bill Medicaid has been provided;
2. Services are covered by the Oregon Medicaid State Plan and identified on the IFSP;
3. Services are delivered by medically licensed providers—this can include speech and audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health, social work, and nursing.

Will Medicaid services that a family receives outside of school (Private Therapy) be affected if EI/ECSE programs bill?
No. Medicaid services received outside of school and the child’s IFSP are authorized separately. School health-based Medicaid reimbursement has no impact on a family’s community Medicaid benefits or eligibility. OAR 410-141-3420(8)(h).
Can a parent withdraw their consent?
Yes. Parents can withdraw consent at any time by notifying the school district in writing.

If a parent does not give consent to bill Medicaid, or withdraws consent, will their child still receive IFSP services?
Yes. Under IDEA, EI/ECSE programs are required to provide all appropriate IFSP services at no cost to parents.

What type of information will be shared? Who will see the information?
Personally Identifiable Information to be released:
• Name and address of the child, the child’s parent, or other family member;
• Child’s date of birth, gender, diagnosis and procedure codes for billing Medicaid; and
• Records of special education and related services provided under (IDEA).

Who will see the information:
The State Medicaid Agency (OHA) and its affiliates.

Who should parents contact with questions?
Please contact your Early Childhood Early Special Education program with any questions or concerns.