

CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE POLICY

The New York State School Supportive Health Services Program Compliance Agreement, entered into on July 20, 2009, by the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department and the New York Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (hereinafter "Compliance Agreement") provides:

The State and local school districts shall establish a confidential disclosure mechanism enabling employees to disclose anonymously any practices or billing procedures, deemed by the employee to be inappropriate, to the State's Compliance Officer. The State shall make the confidential disclosure mechanism known to each employee as part of his or her training. The State and local school district shall, as part of the confidential disclosure program, require the internal review of any such credible disclosure and ensure that proper follow-up is conducted. The State shall include in its annual compliance report to CMS a summary of communications concerning inappropriate billings or any other inappropriate conduct under the confidential disclosure program, and the results of any internal review and follow-up of such disclosures.

The Confidential Disclosure Policy required by the foregoing Compliance Agreement provision consists of the following:

1. An employee of the State Education Department, State Department of Health ("DOH") (collectively "state agencies"), or any local school district, including New York City and, with respect to the Preschool Supportive Health Services Program, any county in the State ("local school district"), who believes that any practice or billing procedure related to Medicaid reimbursement of School or Preschool Supportive Health Services is inappropriate, may send information concerning such practice or billing procedure in writing to the State Compliance Officer by U.S. mail, courier service, e-mail or facsimile transmission. Disclosures may be made anonymously. An employee's verbal communication of any such allegation will not be sufficient to require any further action to be initiated under the Confidential Disclosure Policy procedures set forth below.
2. The Compliance Officer will send any disclosures to the relevant state agency and to the implicated local school district, if any. If the Compliance Officer is aware of the employee's identity, he/she will not reveal it to any other person without the employee's written consent, provided by U.S. mail, courier service, e-mail or facsimile transmission.
3. The relevant state agencies and local school district shall undertake a review of the practice described in the employee's disclosure without attempting to uncover the identity of the complaining employee and shall determine: (a) whether the employee's allegations are credible, (b) whether any federal or state statute, regulation or policy pertaining to any practice or billing procedure related to Medicaid reimbursement of School or Preschool Supportive Health Services has been violated and (c) whether any such violation is systemic or was limited to one or a small number of cases.

4. The relevant state agencies and local school districts shall address any violation found during the review, whether systemic or limited, in a manner designed to avoid a similar violation in the future and to remedy the effect of the violation in the cases in which it was found to have occurred. If the review determines the violation was systemic, the relevant state agencies and local school district shall take all steps necessary to identify the cases in which the violation occurred and then to remedy the effect of the violation in those cases.

5. Within 90 days of receiving notice from the Compliance Officer of the information provided by an employee, the relevant state agencies and local school district shall: (a) complete the review of such allegations and any remedial plan required as a result of such review and (b) provide to the Compliance Officer a written description of the review, the remedial plan and all actions taken pursuant to such plan. In the event the relevant state agencies and local school district determine the employee's allegations are not credible, the written response shall describe the bases for such determination. The written document shall identify the individual(s) at the relevant state agencies and local school district who was(were) responsible for approving the review, the remedial plan and all actions taken pursuant to such plan, including the person's name, job title, telephone number, mailing address, e-mail address and fax number.

6. If the Compliance Officer is not satisfied with the review, the remedial plan, or the actions taken pursuant to such plan, he/she may discuss the matter with the relevant state agencies and local school district to resolve these concerns. In addition, the Compliance Officer may, if he/she considers it necessary to assure the State's compliance with the Compliance Agreement, request that the Audit Unit of DOH's Division of Administration undertake an audit to determine: (a) whether a violation occurred, (b) whether any such violation has been remedied and (c) whether the remedial action is sufficient to prevent similar violations in the future.

7. In the event the employee's identity becomes known to a relevant state agency or local school district or to an employee of such agency or district, no adverse employment action of any type shall be taken against such employee because he/she provided information to the Compliance Officer or to a person conducting a review of the disclosure.

8. The relevant state agencies and the local school districts shall include in every training any of them provides pursuant to the Compliance Agreement: (a) a description of the Confidential Disclosure Policy procedures described above, (b) the name, mailing address, e-mail address and fax number of the Compliance Officer, and (c) an assurance that no adverse employment action of any type will be taken against an employee because he/she provided information to the Compliance Officer or to a person conducting a review concerning alleged inappropriate practices or billing procedures related to Medicaid reimbursement of School or Preschool Supportive Health Services.

Approved By:

Deborah Bachrach, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Health Insurance Programs
New York State Department of Health

Date:

Approved By:

Theresa E. Savo

Theresa E. Savo, Deputy Commissioner
Operations and Management Services
New York State Education Department

Date:

10/16/09