Mental Health Provider Waivers

Although the New Hampshire Medicaid to Schools Program regulations are specific relative to mental health qualifications, the rules do allow school districts to request waivers, and in many cases such waivers have been approved.

The only cases in which a district does not need to seek a mental health waiver are for mental health providers who hold the following certifications issued by the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE) or the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice (Board):

- NH DOE-certified school counseling director
- NH DOE-certified school counselor
- NH DOE-certified school social worker
- Board Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Board Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor

If a student in your district receives mental health services either in district or out of district from a provider who is not certified by the DOE or Board as described above or is not licensed in the state in which he or she practices, you will need to seek a waiver. Examples include New Hampshire ABAs, BCBAs, LADCs, autism specialists, behavior specialists and counselors who do not hold one of the DOE or Board credentials specified above.

To proceed with a waiver request, please click here to download the waiver template drafted by MSB™. Modify the template to include your specific information and print your waiver letter on your district or SAU letterhead. The name(s) of the practitioner(s) should be inserted where "Provider" is indicated. Attach a copy of the practitioner's credentials (e.g., state license or certification) as well as his or her résumé or CV. Mail your letter to the address indicated on the template, and forward a copy to MSB. We suggest sending the letter via certified mail so that you have proof of mailing.

Waivers are not granted retroactively, so the best scenario is to request a waiver prior to engaging a mental health provider who does not hold one of the NH DOE certifications specified in the Medicaid to Schools Program regulations. Once approved, a waiver is effective for a three-year period, subject to any stipulations that may be imposed by DHHS, e.g., renewal of a currently held license that may be subject to expiration during the waiver period.

Please feel free to contact MSB at 800-618-3111 with any questions regarding the waiver process or the Medicaid to Schools Program.

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