

Medicaid Recovery and Special Education Data Management

Case Study



The Client

Providence Public School District

The Project

Medicaid Recovery Project and Special Education Data Management System:

- Review findings of Office of the Inspector General audit
- Develop fully compliant state Medicaid program
- Provide state compliant Individualized Education Program (IEP) and logging system

The Opportunity

Following an audit by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which revealed insufficient internal controls and non-compliance with requirements in Rhode Island's Medicaid program, Providence Public School District (PPSD) sought an experienced partner to support the development of a fully compliant Medicaid program. PPSD partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) in 2003 to implement a fully compliant solution for Medicaid reimbursement for its fee for service (FFS) and per diem programs. As a result of the OIG audit, Rhode Island launched a statewide initiative to conduct district reviews every other year; to date, PCG has supported PPSD through six review cycles.

The PCG Approach

PCG first examined the findings from the OIG audit to determine an implementation strategy for a compliant Medicaid reimbursement model for PPSD. Within six months, PCG implemented EasyTrac, our service documentation tool, tailored for Rhode Island claiming and developed a completely electronic, HIPAA compliant process for submitting FFS claims to Medicaid for payment. Working closely with PPSD, PCG established a mail and data entry system that led to a new revenue stream for PPSD: through the billing of out-of-district, in state students, PPSD was able to capture new revenue not previously recouped. Electronic billing, coupled with this policy change, significantly improved cash-flow and increased revenue for PPSD. To fully support PPSD's Medicaid program, PCG worked with PPSD prior to each of the State's bi-annual reviews to verify that all back up information was recorded and on hand.

Because special education data is the cornerstone of school-based Medicaid claiming, and Rhode Island was without an IEP system, PCG leveraged nationwide project experience to support the implementation of the state's first IEP system in 2008. PCG helped PPSD gather all necessary forms and formats of the Rhode Island state IEP and provided our EasyIEP solution, thus creating a comprehensive special education and Medicaid repository. The following provides a review of PCG work:

Developing HIPAA Complaint Medicaid Claims

- **Review of Audit Findings:** PCG came to PPSD with a plan to fix their claims and support HIPAA compliance
- **EasyTrac:** Development of state tailored, online, electronic system for service logging. Using this system, PCG was able to electronically submit claims for Providence for the first time, increasing cash flow, reimbursement, and compliance
- **Audit and Review Support:** New state initiative to conduct reviews every other year resulted in PCG establishment of regular check ins with PPSD staff to ensure back up documentation was on file prior to reviews

Developing Special Education Data System

- **Develop IEP System:** Brought in first EasyIEP site to Rhode Island with state-specific guidelines, bringing special education data under the same roof as the Medicaid data

The Result

Since 2003, PCG has helped generate more than \$40 million in reimbursement to the district. In our 12 years working with PPSD, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has conducted six reviews of claiming processes and claiming data. No significant findings returned to date.