Connecticut Did Not Meet Federal and State Requirements for Claiming Medicaid School-Based Child Health Services for Hartford Public Schools

What OIG Found
Connecticut did not claim Federal Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services submitted by HPS in accordance with Federal and State requirements. Of the 100 student-months selected in our sample, 32 student-months were allowable. However, 68 student-months had 1 or more school-based health services, totaling $11,928 ($5,964 Federal share), that were not allowable. These errors occurred because Connecticut did not adequately monitor claims for school-based health services submitted by HPS. On the basis of our sample results, we estimated that Connecticut improperly claimed at least $1,522,359 ($761,179 Federal share) for Medicaid payments made to HPS.

What OIG Recommends and Connecticut Comments
We recommend that the Connecticut Department of Social Services: (1) refund $761,179 to the Federal Government, (2) work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to review Medicaid payments made to HPS after our audit period and refund any overpayments, and (3) strengthen its oversight of the SBCH program by working with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services to develop a detailed review process for claims submitted by the Local Education Agencies to ensure that all claims meet Federal and State requirements.

In written comments on our draft report, DSS agreed with our finding and recommendations. In addition, DSS identified corrective actions HPS has taken or plans to take to address the conditions identified in our draft report. These actions include: (1) exploring potential changes to its billing system with the vendor, (2) researching different options to improve processes to better capture attendance records, (3) correcting the sample items in which parental consent was not obtained by reviewing submitted parental consent forms to make sure the forms contained all necessary information and obtaining new parental consent forms as necessary, and (4) providing staff training.

The full report can be found at https://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region1/11900003.asp.