There are several third party commercial/private insurance matters that have challenged sustainability for school based health services. Many of these issues exist as a result of differing interpretation of School Based Health Center code regulations. We have noted these issues as follows:

1. Under existing regulations, SBHC services are not considered preventive or wellness services. Therefore services are subject to co-pays, co-insurance and deductible payments.
2. Third party insurance companies deduct co-pays, deductibles and co-insurance payments from insurance payments. School Based Health Centers (SBHC) are prohibited from collecting these payments from clients. This results in **zero to very little third** **party** insurance reimbursements principally because many individual insurance plans have high deductibles.
3. Many third party insurance companies refuse to negotiate rate reimbursement for SBHC services. Nor do they acknowledge the rate established by the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) which is required by code. Instead they pay a **much lower rate** previously negotiated with the provider before the provider became an SBHC. The rate established by DMMA is established based upon facility services provided at the school, and is cost based. In some cases these lower reimbursement rates can be 80-90% less than the rate established by DMMA.
4. Insurance companies refuse to pay for more than two services per day per client (one medical, and one mental health visit) regardless of medical/health necessity.
5. SBHC code provides for jurisdiction over State licensed insurance plans, but not self-funded plans. Self-funded plans are exempt for SBHC code compliance. This exempts very large self-funded plans from service provisions and rate reimbursement all together.
6. In SBHCs that provided sexual and reproductive health to student populations, student confidentiality is required by federal regulations.

Yet explanation of benefits (EOBs) are sent home to subscribers of the insurance plan, which document services received by the student. This practice violates federal regulations and jeopardize confidentiality. As a result SBHCs do not bill for these services.

1. In communities that have large uninsured populations (undocumented residents, or non-covered US citizens), services go un-reimbursed.