



TOBY DOUGLAS
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



EDMUND G. BROWN JR
GOVERNOR

[Transportation Policy and Billing](#)

****PLEASE REVIEW THE LEA MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROVIDER MANUAL FOR COMPLETE LEA PROGRAM AND POLICY INFORMATION****

Q1. Can I only bill for mileage under the LEA Program?

- A. No, you cannot bill Medi-Cal for mileage without also billing for the corresponding “flat-rate” transportation. However, you may still bill for allowable non-emergency transportation under the “flat-rate” without billing mileage. Additional information is located in the [loc ed serv trans](#) and [loc ed bil](#) sections in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q2. For students in a wheelchair who receive transportation services as listed on their individualized education plan (IEP)/individualized family service plan (IFSP), can the district claim reimbursement for transportation when the student receives a treatment (i.e., nursing/speech/occupational therapy/physical therapy) when the transportation is from home to school?

- A. Yes, for IEP/IFSP students, transportation and mileage are currently reimbursable between home, school and off-site for covered health services. In order for the LEA to be reimbursed for the IEP/IFSP transportation the IEP/IFSP student must also receive a Medicaid covered service (other than transportation) and both the covered service and the transportation must be authorized in the student’s IEP or IFSP.

Q3. AB 2608 was approved and is effective as of October 1, 2012. Are LEAs allowed to begin billing transportation under the new law beginning October 1st?

- A. Although [AB 2608](#) was effective on October 1, 2012, the provisions of the bill did not go into effect until January 1, 2013. LEAs may begin billing under the new transportation regulations as of January 1, 2013. LEAs may not bill retroactively for transportation services. Refer to [PPL 13-001](#) for additional information.

Q4. Can we bill for transportation to/from a covered service that we are not claiming? For example, the student is being transported to the County Office of Education (COE) for physical therapy service, which is authorized in the IEP. The COE is claiming for the physical therapy service.

- A. If the child is receiving a covered service on the same day he or she is transported, and both the service and the transportation are authorized in the student’s IEP, your LEA may bill for the transportation even if another provider is responsible for billing the covered service. If a LEA bills only for transportation, they should maintain documentation in the student’s file that another covered service was provided on that day at a different venue and verify that the other entity is not billing for transportation.

Q5. Can a LEA provider be reimbursed for transportation for special education Medi-Cal eligible students who are given medication on a daily basis at school?

- A. For a LEA provider to be reimbursed for transportation a Medi-Cal eligible student must receive a Medicaid covered service on the date of transport and both the transportation and Medicaid covered service must be included in the student's IEP. According to Education Code Section 49423, the school nurse or qualified school personnel may assist with the administration of medication. Since the nurse may only assist, dispensing medication to a student is not considered a Medicaid covered service under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (Title 22, CCR, Sections 51360 and 51535.5).

Q6. What is the definition of a Wheelchair Van?

- A. See [CCR Title 22, Section 51231.2](#) for a full definition of a wheelchair van. This State regulation defines wheelchair van requirements and identifies specific minimum requirements for wheelchair van operation and equipment.

Q7. Can a one-to-one aide on a bus qualify as a reimbursable service?

- A. A one-to-one personal care aide transported with a child on a wheelchair van or litter van would not qualify as a reimbursable service. If a trained health care aide (THCA) is required to be on a wheelchair van or litter van during transport due to a specialized physical health care service that must be conducted during transport, the medical necessity must be documented in the student's IEP/IFSP and the THCA service must be documented in provider billing logs, case notes, etc.

Q8. Can a LEA bill only the "per trip" charge, not the mileage? If so, must we state the mileage and the origination and destination point, other than school to home/home to school?

- A. Yes, a LEA may bill for the per trip charge without billing for mileage. When billing for transportation, the provider is required to include all of the following information in the record of each student who receives school-based medical transportation services:
- The student's first and last name and date of birth.
 - The general service category - (transportation).
 - The date of service that school-based medical LEA covered medical transportation services were provided.
 - Documented verification that the child was in school and received a school-based service other than transportation on the date the transportation was provided.

Note: It is critical that providers verify that a recipient received an allowable LEA Program school-based Medi-Cal covered service on a particular day before billing for LEA covered medical transportation services for that day.

- The total number of miles (only applicable when mileage is billed).
- The origination point and destination point.

When seeking reimbursement for transportation the address of the origination point and destination point must be documented in the student's record and trip log even if the LEA does not bill for mileage.