

**Local Educational Agency
Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP)
Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2023**

Meeting Materials

- » Meeting materials were distributed to participants via email and are available on [DHCS Stakeholder Meeting website](#).

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

- » Comments on the April 2023 Stakeholder Meeting minutes should be sent via email to the LEA Inbox at LEA@DHCS.ca.gov. If no feedback is received, the meeting minutes will be considered final.

End of Continuous Coverage – Outreach Campaign

- » The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Medi-Cal Eligibility Division provided an update and discussed current activities related to the end of continuous coverage outreach campaign, including efforts to notify beneficiaries using data-informed approaches in three campaign waves: awareness, renewals, and expanded eligibility enrollment.
- » DHCS reminded participants that they can opt-in to the [DHCS Coverage Ambassador program](#).
- » Approximately 200 LEAs have opted-in to share their LEA BOP data match output file with their SMAA staff for the purpose of identification of disenrollment, and then outreach and application assistance. LEAs will need to complete a new Data Use Agreement (DUA) to use MOVEit eligibility confirmation output files for this purpose.

If LEAs need a copy of the new DUA for re-enrollment outreach purposes, they may reach out to LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov. Once the DUA is fully executed and returned to the LEA with signature from DHCS, the LEA BOP provider may use the data match output file to identify students who have lost Medi-Cal coverage. At that time, LEAs may use that information for School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA) outreach and application assistance.

Unwinding the Public Health Emergency (PHE)

- » The Local Governmental Financing Division (LGFD) reminded participants that the last day of the federal PHE is May 11, 2023.
- » LEA BOP will be distributing a Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) related to the PHE termination.
- » LGFD provided an important update on all service authorizations that expired during the PHE. Expired authorizations (e.g., prescriptions, referrals, and recommendations) will no longer be valid to support billable services as of May 12, 2023. Effective May 12, 2023, service authorizations must be current and will remain valid for one year from the date of authorization.

DHCS Audits & Investigation (A&I) Update

- » A&I will present during the July 2023 Stakeholder Meeting on the status of Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) audits for the SFY 2020-21 and the backcasted time period (SFYs 2015-16 through 2019-20).
- » LGFD provided a status update regarding SFY 2020-21 cost reports. Although the new Interim Settlement accommodates the reality that DHCS has up to three years to review and issue final settlements, many LEAs will not receive an interim settlement on their SFY 2020-21 CRCS because A&I has completed a majority of final audit settlements.
 - When A&I does issue interim settlements, these will be issued based on 100% of the as-reported amount due to DHCS and 60% of the as-reported amount due to the LEA. An analysis of past settlements indicated LEAs underestimate the amount they owe to DHCS and overestimate the amount owed to them, which supports the decision to make a full collection and partial interim payment to LEAs through the interim settlement process.

LGFD Updates

- » Interim Rates – Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP)
 - LGFD noted that during the PHE the FMAP was temporarily increased by 6.2%, resulting in the federal government paying 56.2% of eligible expenses. The FMAP rate will be gradually reverting to the pre-PHE amount of 50% on a decremental basis, as follows:
 - On April 1, 2023, the FMAP will decrease from 56.2% to 55%.

- On July 1, 2023, the FMAP will decrease from 55% to 52.5%.
- On October 1, 2023, the FMAP will decrease from 52.5% to 51.5%.
- On January 1, 2024, the FMAP will revert to 50%, consistent with pre-PHE policy.
- DHCS will be updating the interim rates to align with each FMAP reduction date. In the event the system implementation occurs after the first date of the new FMAP period, DHCS will establish an erroneous payment correction (EPC) to re-adjudicate claims at the correct FMAP.
- » ERMHS/ERICs Updates
 - LGFD continues to consult with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding ERMHS/ERICs as covered services in the LEA BOP. LGFD will notify stakeholders with updates as they are finalized.
- » Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP) Update
 - All SBHIP Needs Assessments have been completed and SBHIP partners are now beginning to implement Targeted Interventions.
 - Going forward, SBHIP updates will no longer be provided during the Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting. LEAs should email SBHIP@guidehouse.com with questions, or for office hours information. In addition, the [SBHIP website](#) contains information on the program.
- » Mental Health Coordination
 - DHCS reminded participants that [PPL #20-051](#) is posted on the LEA BOP website. It addresses LEA coordination of mental health services with Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs), County Offices of Education (COEs), County Mental Health Plans (MHPs), and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).
- » Telehealth Expansion
 - DHCS discussed the PHE flexibilities related to telehealth and identified which will be permanently expanded at the end of the PHE and which will expire at the end of the PHE.
 - Services eligible to be rendered via telehealth will include all LEA services except for services that preclude a telehealth modality.
 - Beginning May 12, 2023:

- Parental or guardian consent is required to receive LEA BOP services via telehealth.
 - Providers must be licensed, credentialed, or registered in California to provide services via telehealth.
 - The ORP requirements will require services to have a current prescription, referral, or recommendation to bill LEA BOP for a treatment service. This applies to those services rendered via telehealth and all LEA BOP services in general.
- The [telehealth section](#) of the LEA BOP provider manual (*loc ed tele*) will be updated in June 2023 to reflect the new post-PHE telehealth policy.
- » LEA Withholding (Fair Share Reconciliation)
 - DHCS withholds a total of three percent of paid claims to cover program expenses associated with staff salaries and benefits, A&I expenses, and DHCS contractor expenses. Funds that have been withheld are proportionately returned to the LEAs through an annual Fair Share Reconciliation process. To complete the reconciliation, DHCS reviews annual program expenditures and compares those to what each participating LEA has paid into the LEA BOP withholding for the state fiscal year.
 - Although DHCS is required to return unused funds to LEAs, funds have not been returned to LEAs for several state fiscal years. In the upcoming SFY budget, \$7.45 million was approved to be returned to LEAs. DHCS will notify eligible LEAs who will receive reimbursements in SFY 2023-24.
 - » Rate Rebasing
 - State Plan 15-021 dictates that interim rates should be rebased every five years. The next rebasing for the LEA BOP is due to occur for rates effective July 1, 2024.
 - Total compensation and annual hours worked data will be collected for practitioners on the SFY 2022-23 CRCS. This information will not be part of the LEA BOP CRCS audit process.
 - DHCS will meet with a group of stakeholders to get feedback on the process over the next year, including input on the CRCS reporting worksheet.

- » Charter School Participation in the LEA BOP
 - DHCS reminded participants that charter school participation rules are slightly different in LEA BOP than in SMAA.
 - In SMAA, charter schools must use the Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) to be eligible to participate.
 - In LEA BOP, the use of SACS is not mandated for participation. Charter schools that do not utilize SACS may participate in LEA BOP if they can substantiate their expense reporting and provide A&I with a crosswalk between their accounting system and SACS object codes or provide adequate documentation to substantiate costs on the CRCS (e.g., detailed payroll records that support salaries/benefits).
- » Compliance Process for LEAs that Fail to Submit a CRCS (PPL 21-025)
 - LEA Ops has been focusing on compliance and conducting outreach for missing documents.
 - DHCS reminded LEAs that the Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedules (CRCS) are mandatory and a condition for participation in the LEA BOP.
 - DHCS reviewed all the CRCS due dates and procedures.
 - Ensure LEAs receive and save the acceptance e-mail from A&I. This is confirmation that the CRCS is filed, accepted, and in review with DHCS.
 - If LEAs receive a rejected CRCS from A&I, the LEA should correct and resubmit the CRCS as soon as possible.
 - [Technical assistance](#) on the compliance process is available through LEA BOP.
 - DHCS reminded stakeholders of the additional Compliance Process outlined in [PPL 21-025](#) for LEAs that Fail to Submit a CRCS by the mandated due date. LEAs with unfiled CRCS reports will face withholds, corrective action plans, suspension from the Random Moment Time Survey (RMTS), which prevents billing for costs in that quarter on the CRCS, and ultimately termination from the LEA BOP.
 - Terminated LEAs cannot file past due CRCS reports.

- Interim payments will have to be paid back to DHCS.
- » LEA BOP Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting and Training Schedule 2023
 - Stakeholder meetings will continue be held quarterly instead of every other month. The next meeting will take place in July 2023.
 - LEAs can subscribe to the LEA-BOP LISTSERV to receive information about future meetings and trainings, as well as important and time sensitive program information at [E-mail Subscribe](#).
- » General Reminders
 - LEAs needing to communicate an address change: Submit the first two pages of the Annual Report (Medi-Cal Provider Enrollment Information Sheet) to: LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov.
 - When e-mailing information that may contain Protected Health Information (PHI), send the message securely by adding the word “[SECURE]” in brackets in the e-mail subject line.
 - Subscribe to LEA BOP LISTSERV to receive important information at [E-mail Subscribe](#).

Afternoon Presentations

Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program (HACCP)

- » DHCS Benefits Division provided an update on the newly expanded [Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program](#).
- » Effective January 1, 2023, HACCP eligibility expanded to include ages 0-20 years and supplemental coverage for applicants whose other health coverage has a coverage limit of \$1,500 or less for hearing aids.
- » The program covers hearing aids, supplies, and audiological evaluation services for eligible children.

CDE Updates: Lead LEA BOP Billing Specialist and School Health Demonstration Project

- » Representatives from the Santa Clara County Office of Education discussed a grant award to develop a statewide professional learning network, including coaching sessions, needs assessments, and billing coordinator-specific tools and

trainings. Representatives also discussed a pilot school health demonstration project.

Update on Medi-Cal for Kids and Teens

- » The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is now referred to in California as “Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens”.
- » Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens provides services, such as well child check-ups, immunizations, and screenings, for Medi-Cal members from birth to age 21.
- » DHCS Benefits Division discussed the newly published [Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens Outreach and Education Toolkit](#). The toolkit is intended to improve member understanding, increase coordination with child-serving stakeholders, and develop standardized providing training.
- » LEAs are encouraged to share information about Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens with the students and families in their LEA.

Funding Streams Available

- » Representatives from WestEd presented a resource for LEAs on various funding streams related to school-based health services. The tool, *Accelerating the Expansion of Quality School-Based Health*, distinguishes between ongoing and one-time funding streams.

Next LEA BOP Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting:

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 10:30am PT (Webinar via WebEx)