



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: November 13, 2018

PPL No. 18-027

TO: Local Educational Agencies

SUBJECT: SPECIALIZED MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION IN THE LOCAL
EDUCATIONAL AGENCY MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROGRAM

This Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) notifies Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (BOP) that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) adopted Section 51190.4.1 and amended Sections 51231.1, 51231.2, 51323, 51360 and 51491, Title 22, Division 3, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). This regulatory action added a definition for “LEA Specialized Medical Transportation Services”, and amended a number of other CCRs to be consistent with the California Welfare and Institutions Code and the Code of Federal Regulations. The effective date for this regulatory action was April 1, 2016.

The newly adopted Section 51190.4.1 defines LEA Specialized Medical Transportation Services as “medical transportation services provided to an LEA eligible beneficiary who requires a specially adapted vehicle or use of specialized equipment, including but not limited to lifts, ramps or restraints, to accommodate the LEA eligible beneficiary’s disability.”

Litter Van Transportation

LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van, and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a gurney, are no longer required to be secured to a gurney by restraining belts while being loaded, unloaded and transported. (*Section 51231.1(f)*)
LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van are no longer required to be transported in a prone or supine position because they are incapable of sitting for the period of time needed to transport. (*Section 51323(a)(2)(A)*)

Wheelchair Van Transportation

LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van, and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a wheelchair, are no longer required to be secured to wheelchairs while being loaded, unloaded or transported. (*Section 51231.2(e)*)
LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van are no longer required to be transported in a wheelchair, or assisted to and from residence, vehicle and place of treatment because of a disabling physical or mental limitation. (*Section 51323(a)(3)(B)*)

Prior state regulatory requirements are more restrictive than federal transportation requirements and imposed limits on school districts from receiving federal funds for transportation services. Amending these provisions allows LEAs to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical transportation services to students with disabilities for the purpose of obtaining needed medical care.

Section 51360 was amended to remove allowable billing for LEA Specialized Medical Transportation Services under Individualized Health and Support Plans. Transportation services are billable only for students with Individualized Education Plans or Individualized Family Service Plans.

Section 51491 was amended to update the naming convention for LEA transportation to 'LEA Specialized Medical Transportation'.

DHCS has updated the LEA Program Transportation Billing Guide based on the contents of this PPL. The Transportation Guide includes examples of billable transportation scenarios, and is located on the LEA Program website, under the Manuals & Training heading: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/LEA.aspx>

The complete regulatory action DHCS-12-015, including the final approved regulations text, can be accessed at:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/regs/Pages/12-015.aspx>

If you have any questions concerning this PPL, please contact Rick Record, Chief, LEA BOP, by phone at (916) 345-7688 or by email at Rick.Record@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Rick Record, Chief
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program