Subject:
Department of Health Care Services – Practitioner Enrollment Phased-In Approach Update

Local Educational Agency
Medi-Cal Billing Option Program

August 10, 2026

UPDATE
Please do not reply to this e-mail.

To All Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) Providers:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is notifying all LEA BOP Providers about an update to the Practitioner Enrollment Phased-in Approach related to the Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) 26-001. The updated Practitioner Enrollment Phased-In Approach is attached for your reference and will be published on the LEA BOP website soon.

What you need to know

- The phased in approach is intended to provide a suggested timeline for enrolling practitioners into Medi-Cal, but following the timeline is not mandatory. DHCS still recommends LEAs to encourage practitioners who can enroll sooner to do so at their earliest opportunity. Effective July 1, 2026, it is required that the practitioners who have an enrollment pathway to be enrolled in Medi-Cal. Those practitioners that do not meet this requirement may not be included on the Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) and will not receive Medicaid payments.
- The phased-in approach has been updated to include Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) in Phase IV. Ordering, Referring, Prescribing (ORP) applications are recommended to be submitted between December 2026 and January 2027 for this practitioner type.
- DHCS is adding Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) as qualified LEA rendering practitioners under the LEA BOP through a forthcoming State Plan Amendment (SPA).
    - Although the SPA has not yet been approved, DHCS recommends LEAs begin enrolling their LPCCs in Phase IV if they plan to claim costs for this practitioner type.

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Why this is important

Upon approval of the SPA and effective July 1, 2026, LPCCs will be added as an LEA qualified rendering practitioner and will need to be enrolled in Medi-Cal to be included on the Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) to receive Medicaid payments.

We are here to help

- For information regarding the LEA BOP, visit the LEA BOP website.
- For general LEA BOP questions, e-mail DHCS at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.
- For personalized assistance, request a Technical Assistance visit.

Sincerely,

LEA BOP Staff

LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program | Department of Health Care Services

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