

1. What is the new requirement for practitioner enrollment?

Effective July 1, 2026, all practitioners with a Medi-Cal enrollment pathway that provide LEA BOP covered direct services must separately enroll in Medi-Cal as a provider.

The list of practitioner types supported in Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) can be accessed at: [Provider Types Supported in PAVE](#).

2. Will practitioners still need to enroll if they are employed or contracted with a LEA that is already enrolled in Medi-Cal?

Yes, all practitioners with an enrollment pathway for which federal funding reimbursements are sought must be enrolled in Medi-Cal, regardless of their employment or contractual relationship with the LEA.

3. How will this requirement affect practitioners who are eligible to enroll in Medi-Cal, but not enrolled by July 1, 2026, or choose not to enroll?

Federal funds cannot be reimbursed to LEAs for services provided by a practitioner who has an enrollment pathway but has not yet completed enrollment.

4. When should practitioners start enrolling in Medi-Cal if the requirement becomes effective July 1, 2026?

While DHCS is implementing a phased-in approach, LEAs are encouraged to have practitioners begin enrolling in Medi-Cal at the earliest opportunity.

5. How does an eligible practitioner enroll in Medi-Cal?

The practitioner will need to create an account through the [PAVE Portal](#) and submit an application to enroll as an Ordering, Referring, or Prescribing (ORP) provider. Please note, Licensed Physician Assistants will need to select "Other" as the provider type when creating an ORP application.

The Practitioner Enrollment Training PowerPoint can be accessed at: [November 2025 LEA BOP Practitioner Enrollment in Medi-Cal Training](#)

The Practitioner Enrollment Training Recording can be accessed at: [November 2025 LEA BOP Practitioner Enrollment in Medi-Cal Training \(video\)](#)

Ordering/Referring/Prescribing Only Enrollment Information can be accessed at: [Ordering/Referring/Prescribing Only Enrollment Information](#)

6. Will there be any cost associated with the enrollment process?

No. There is no cost associated with obtaining an NPI number and enrolling these practitioners through PAVE.

7. Will eligible practitioners need to apply for an NPI number prior to enrolling in Medi-Cal?

Yes, the practitioner must apply for a Type 1 NPI number with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) first. A Type 1 NPI number is for individual health care providers. Once a Type 1 NPI number has been obtained, the practitioner can submit an application to enroll as a Medi-Cal provider through PAVE.

8. What is a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number and how do I obtain it?

An NPI is a unique 10-digit number, which health care providers and practitioners use to identify themselves in a standard way throughout their industry. Individuals and organizations apply for NPI numbers through NPPES. After an NPI is supplied, CMS publishes the parts of the NPI record that have public relevance, including the provider's name, specialty (taxonomy) and practice address. CMS provides this service based on federal law (45 CFR Part 162).

NPPES can be accessed at: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

9. How long does it take for a practitioner to receive an NPI number?

According to NPPES, timing varies as applications are processed in the order they are received. If an eligible practitioner does not have a Type 1 NPI number, please apply for the NPI number as soon as possible.

10. How can I confirm if a practitioner is enrolled in Medi-Cal?

You can view if a practitioner is enrolled in Medi-Cal on the Open Data Portal: [Profile of Enrolled Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service \(FFS\) Providers](#) by viewing the spreadsheet named "Enrolled Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (FFS) Providers" and entering the practitioner's Type 1 NPI number in the search bar or legal name (last name, first name).

11. If a practitioner is already enrolled in Medi-Cal as a rendering provider or an individual billing provider, will they still have to enroll as an ORP provider?

No. The practitioner will not need to enroll as an ORP provider.

12. Is an ORP provider the same as a Medi-Cal provider?

Yes. For this LEA BOP requirement, an ORP provider is a type of Medi-Cal provider. However, within Medi-Cal there are distinct differences between the two types of enrollment.

13. Is this requirement only for ORP providers?

This requirement is a separate requirement from the ORP requirement, which is also still in effect. This new requirement is not limited to those practitioners that order, refer, or prescribe services but instead it is about enrolling in Medi-Cal. If a practitioner has an eligible Medi-Cal enrollment pathway and does not ORP for services, they will still be required to enroll as a Medi-Cal provider and enrolling as an ORP is the easiest method of enrolling in Medi-Cal.

14. Will this requirement affect the NPI number provided on the claim form?

No. The practitioner enrollment requirement does not change the claims submission process for LEA BOP. Only the NPI numbers of the Medi-Cal billing provider (the LEA) and the practitioner that created the order, referral, or prescription will need to be included on the claim.

15. If a practitioner is eligible to enroll in Medi-Cal as an ORP does that mean that practitioner can order, refer, and/or prescribe treatment services for allowed LEA BOP claiming?

No. The practitioner enrollment requirement does not impact which practitioner is authorized to order, refer, or prescribe services. Although the practitioner has an eligible pathway to enroll in Medi-Cal as an ORP provider, the practitioner must be a qualified ORP practitioner in the LEA BOP to order, refer, or prescribe the treatment services covered under the LEA BOP. Information about the practitioner types that may ORP is in the [LEA BOP Manual](#) (see *loc ed a prov*).

16. Why do eligible LEA practitioners need to enroll as ORP providers if they are not ordering, referring, or prescribing services? Is there another application practitioners can submit?

DHCS is recommending that eligible practitioners enroll in Medi-Cal by submitting an ORP application. This is the simplest and most effective enrollment pathway that satisfies the federal requirement. However, if the practitioner identifies an application type that

better aligns with their purpose, they may choose that application type, provided they meet the applicable requirements.

Specific instructions on how to apply for enrollment by provider type can be accessed at: [Applications by Provider Type](#).

17. If a practitioner is enrolled in Medi-Cal as an ORP provider, will it exclude the practitioner from enrolling as an individual billing provider and having the ability to bill for direct services?

No. Being enrolled as an ORP provider will not exclude a practitioner from enrolling as an individual billing provider and having the ability to bill for direct services. The practitioner can be enrolled as both an ORP provider and an individual billing provider. Please note, if the practitioner is already enrolled as an individual billing provider, there is no need to also enroll as an ORP provider.

18. Will this requirement be implemented for direct service practitioners that only provide assessments and not therapy treatments?

This requirement will apply to all practitioner types that have an enrollment pathway, whether they provide assessment or treatment services.

The list of practitioner types supported in Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment (PAVE) can be accessed at: [Provider Types Supported in PAVE](#).

19. Are there any additional steps we need to take if our LEA has practitioners that do not have an enrollment pathway?

Practitioner types without an enrollment pathway will not be expected to enroll in Medi-Cal for the LEA to seek reimbursements through LEA BOP for services provided. No additional steps are required for practitioners who do not have an eligible pathway to enroll in Medi-Cal. These practitioners may continue providing services under the LEA BOP as usual.

20. Are Licensed Educational Psychologists and Registered Credentialed School Nurses required to separately enroll in Medi-Cal?

No. Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs) and Registered Credentialed School Nurses (RCSNs) do not have an eligible pathway to enroll in Medi-Cal and, therefore, are not required to separately enroll. Psychological and counseling services require only a recommendation, and not an order, referral, or prescription; therefore, LEPs and RCSNs may continue making recommendations for these services without being enrolled as an ORP practitioner. DHCS will be updating the ORP Practitioner Guide to reflect this change.

21. If a practitioner holds both a license and credential, are they still required to enroll in Medi-Cal under their license?

Depending on how the practitioner is hired by the LEA and the specific job duties they perform, the requirement to enroll in Medi-Cal as a licensed practitioner will vary. See examples below:

Example:	Job Classification	Duties Performed Related to License	Medi-Cal Enrollment Required?
1	License	Yes	Yes
2	Credential	No	No
3	Credential	Yes	Yes

Examples:

1. If a speech-language pathologist is hired with their license – Medi-Cal enrollment is required.
2. If a speech-language pathologist is hired with their credential and only performs duties related to their credential – Medi-Cal enrollment is not required.
3. If a speech-language pathologist is hired with their credential and performs duties related to their license – Medi-Cal enrollment is required (under license).

22. Will eligible practitioners need to apply for a new NPI number and/or enroll in Medi-Cal at each district they work for?

No, practitioners will only need one NPI number and only need to enroll in Medi-Cal once. NPI numbers are unique to the individual. A practitioner’s enrollment in Medi-Cal will not be in association with a specific LEA, and they will not have to apply for a new NPI or re-enroll if they move to another LEA or if they work at multiple LEAs.

23. If a practitioner provides services at multiple LEA locations, do they have to list all locations in the Business Profile section of the ORP application?

No, the practitioner does not have to list all the LEA locations. The practitioner will need to list at least one LEA location.

24. What will be the practitioner’s effective date of enrollment in Medi-Cal?

The effective date of enrollment for an approved application for ORP providers shall be one year prior to the date DHCS received the complete application package, or the date the applicant was licensed, if the effective date of their professional license is less than one year prior to submitting the application. Please note, if a practitioner enrolls in Medi-Cal through a different enrollment pathway than ORP, they will not receive a one-year

retroactive effective date. Instead, the effective date will be the date DHCS received the application.

25. How long does it take for an application to be reviewed?

The legal allowance for the initial review period of an application is 90 days for physicians and 180 days for all other practitioner types. However, DHCS strives to complete initial reviews much sooner. Please note, if your application is incomplete DHCS will return it with a deficiency letter outlining the areas that need corrections. You will have 60 days to make the corrections and resubmit your application. After resubmission, DHCS will have an additional 60 days to review your application and determine if it is approved, referred, or denied. When submitting your application, please consider the review timeline and allow for possible delays to ensure practitioners are enrolled in Medi-Cal by July 1, 2026.

26. Will practitioners providing telehealth services be required to enroll regardless of being located in California or out of state?

Practitioners providing telehealth services, whether in California or out of state, must enroll in Medi-Cal if they have an eligible enrollment pathway. Out of state practitioners must hold a valid California license to enroll in Medi-Cal.

27. A practitioner who lives out of state and provides telehealth services has a California clinical license. However, they do not have a California driver's license or California issued identification card. Can the practitioner submit their own state's valid ID to meet the required document when submitting an application on PAVE?

Yes, the practitioner can submit their own state's valid ID if their driver's license or state-issued identification card is issued within the United States or the District of Columbia.

28. Can LEAs submit applications on behalf of their eligible practitioners, or will each eligible practitioner need to apply individually?

LEAs can assist practitioners with the application process; however, the application must be signed by the practitioner and submitted under their own individual email address.