

Subject:

DHCS – Update on LEA BOP Policy Relating to Multi-Payer Fee Schedule



Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program

July 22, 2024

LEA BOP UPDATE

Please do not reply to this e-mail.

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

For LEAs participating in both the Local Education Agency Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Fee Schedule Program (CYBHI Fee Schedule):

The LEA BOP and CYBHI Fee Schedule program are different payment methods with overlapping behavioral health services and practitioner types. DHCS is providing preliminary guidance (and will provide more detailed guidance) about steps taken to address these program overlaps and avoid inadvertent submission of duplicate claims. LEA BOP is a cost reconciliation program for certain physical and mental health services with interim reimbursements and final cost settlements. The CYBHI Fee Schedule program, on the other hand, is a fee-for-service program that reimburses LEAs for certain behavioral health services, such as mental health and substance use disorder services, at fixed, published rates for these services furnished to students.

DHCS has determined that offsetting LEA BOP practitioner expenses with CYBHI Fee Schedule reimbursements for those practitioners providing services in both programs will sufficiently address potential overlaps and concerns about duplicate payment and will not require changes to any part of the LEA BOP.

What you need to know

- There will not be any changes to the LEA BOP Random Moment Time Survey (RMTS) methodology.
 - LEAs participating in both LEA BOP and the CYBHI Fee Schedule will participate in and respond to RMTS moments in the same way as LEAs who only participate in LEA BOP.

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- This will allow RMTS percentages that lead to the direct medical services percentage (DMSP), which is part of the LEA BOP payment methodology, to remain as they are.
- LEAs participating in both programs must bill all covered mental health services provided pursuant to an Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) to the LEA BOP. All covered behavioral/mental health services provided to general education students must be billed to the CYBHI Fee Schedule.
- DHCS is making changes to its LEA BOP Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) template for fiscal year 2024-25 onward. This will allow LEAs to offset the expense of practitioners participating in both programs with the CYBHI Fee Schedule reimbursements for those practitioners.
 - High-Level Example:
A PPS credentialed school psychologist provides mental health services to students with an IEP or an IFSP. The LEA submits claims for those services to LEA BOP and then also lists that practitioner's salary and benefits on the LEA BOP CRCS cost report. That same practitioner provides behavioral/mental health services to general education students without an IEP nor an IFSP and the LEA submits claims for reimbursement for those services to the CYBHI Fee Schedule. The LEA will then report the CYBHI Fee Schedule reimbursements for that practitioner on the LEA BOP CRCS as an offset against the practitioner's salary and benefits.
- The CYBHI Fee Schedule reimbursements will not impact the LEA BOP CRCS reported costs for practitioners that participate in only one program.
 - If the LEA assigns some behavioral/mental health practitioners only for IEP/IFSP services and other behavioral/mental health practitioners only for services to general education students, there is no effect on cost calculations between the two programs.
- The CYBHI Fee Schedule reimbursements will not impact the LEA's reported costs for any practitioner types that do not render behavioral/mental health services.
- DHCS will provide training specifically on this topic for all LEA BOP and CYBHI Fee Schedule participants.
 - Additional information about this will be shared in the LEA BOP Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

Why this is important

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- As an oversight agency, DHCS must ensure that both programs operate with integrity and do not have duplicate payments between the fee-for-service and cost reconciliation programs.
- Preliminary analysis of various LEA scenarios (high or low Medi-Cal eligibility ratios or MER; high and low DMSPs) demonstrates a fiscal benefit greater for LEAs participating in both programs than if an LEA participates in only one of these programs.

We are here to help

- For general LEA BOP questions, e-mail DHCS at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.
- For general CYBHI Fee Schedule questions, e-mail DHCS at DHCS.SBS@dhcs.ca.gov

Sincerely,

LEA BOP Staff

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



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