

**September 27, 2017**

*Please do not reply to this email. If you have LEA policy or program questions, please forward them to the LEA mailbox at [LEA@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:LEA@dhcs.ca.gov)*

**Updated Policy Regarding Prescriptions for Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) Treatment Services under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program**

Prescriptions for PT and OT treatment services, as required by Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 51309(a), may come from physicians employed by or contracted with the LEA, or may come from the student's primary care physician, dentist or podiatrist. A prescribing physician does not need to be the student's primary care physician, and does not need to personally evaluate the student to issue a prescription for PT or OT treatment services. However, the prescribing physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating physical/occupational therapist, and must review the student's records prior to prescribing services.

**Note:** On August 24, 2017, DHCS sent the above policy update, with an additional requirement that prescriptions for PT/OT treatment plans would be limited to six months. Prescriptions for treatment plans are generally established and documented annually in the student's IEP/IFSP; therefore, the LEA Program will be held to the IEP/IFSP time period. The current policy, as outlined in the LEA Program Provider Manual, will continue to apply to LEAs: prescriptions for treatment plans must be **updated annually** and maintained in the student's files.