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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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Contracted Practitioners

****PLEASE REVIEW THE LEA MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROVIDER MANUAL FOR COMPLETE LEA PROGRAM AND POLICY INFORMATION****

- Q1. Small districts may not be able to employ multiple providers (e.g., RN, speech therapists, psychologists, etc.) to provide health services. If the district employs only one type of practitioner (such as a credentialed school nurse), can it contract for other types of practitioners (such as speech therapists) and bill for services provided by these contracted practitioners?**
- A. Yes, Effective July 1, 2013, school districts can use a mix of employed and contracted practitioners to provide LEA reimbursable services to Medi-Cal eligible students. Under this model of service delivery, the LEA may provide some services directly and contract out entire service types without directly employing a single practitioner in the service area. Therefore, school districts are no longer restricted to contract for practitioners that only supplement the health services that are being provided by its employed health staff. However, under this model, the LEA may only bill for services provided by the contracted qualified practitioner when the contractor has voluntarily reassigned their right to bill Medi-Cal to the LEA. LEAs must also enter the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the contracted medical professional or agency actually rendering the LEA service in the designated field of the claim form. Additional information is located in the LEA Provider Manual, [loc ed a prov](#) (page 5) and Policy and Procedure Letter ([PPL](#))13-006.
- Q2. My school district is part of an LEA consortium that bills under one National Provider Identifier and shares a school nurse. My school district is responsible for paying the salary and benefit expenses of the nurse. The remaining member school districts in the consortium contract for this nurse's services. Given this situation, can all consortium members still bill for the nurse's services under one provider number?**
- A. Yes. Since LEAs participating in a billing consortium are all billing under a single Medi-Cal provider number, consortium members may bill for services provided by an employee of one of the consortium members, regardless of which school district in the consortium employs the practitioner.
- Q3. Does PPL 13-006 (model 4) require the contracted practitioner to be enrolled as a Medi-Cal provider in order for the LEA to collect reimbursement?**
- A. Yes. The contracted practitioner must be separately qualified and enrolled as a Medicaid provider and must have a separate NPI. To bill for the contracted services under Model 4, the contracted qualified practitioner must voluntarily reassign their right

to payment to the LEA. The LEA bills Medi-Cal using their LEA NPI, but also must enter the NPI of the medical professional actually rendering the service in the Operating field (Box 77). For LEAs, the independent contractor is defined as a medical professional who is not a direct employee of the LEA and provides health care services to students. Additional information is located in the LEA Provider Manual, [loc ed a prov](#) (pages 7-8) and Policy and Procedure Letter ([PPL 13-006](#)). Refer to [loc ed bil ex](#) of the LEA Provider Manual for billing examples.

- For example: An LEA has a full-time employed nurse and a part-time employed speech language pathologist. The LEA contracts with a psychologist practitioner. The psychologist practitioner comes to the LEA premises (or the student goes to a treatment facility) twice a week for services. The contracted practitioner reassigns the right to payment to the LEA. The LEA provider bills Medi-Cal using its LEA National Provider Identifier (NPI).

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