



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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Treatment Service Billing

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

Q1. Can Scoliosis Screenings be billed?

- A. State mandated screenings during the statewide periodicity schedule (including vision, hearing and scoliosis testing) may never be billed to the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. Scoliosis screenings may only be reimbursed under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program if identified as medically necessary in the student's IEP/IFSP. The treatment must meet the supervision requirements and time increment noted in the [loc ed serv nurs](#) section in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q2. When can the rounding policy be utilized?

- A. The rounding policy applies to treatment services that are:
- Billed in 15-minute increments (nursing, trained health care aide and TCM services); or
 - Additional 15-minute increments provided beyond the initial 15-45 minute treatment session (physical therapy, occupational therapy, individual and group speech therapy, audiology, and individual and group psychology and counseling).

Q3. Can we bill for all mental health services that were previously covered under the County Mental Health Program?

- A. Currently under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, the only mental health services that are reimbursable include IEP/IFSP psychological assessments, psychosocial status assessments, psychology/counseling treatment, and TCM services.

Q4. From a school psychologist perspective, where do behavior support plans fit into LEA billing? Would that be appropriate under amended as we often complete a behavior support plan in an addendum IEP?

- A. Currently behavioral services are not reimbursable under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. Allowable psychological services are outlined in [loc ed serv psych](#) in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q5. When a billable practitioner provides consultative service to a Medi-Cal eligible student's teacher who will be performing the treatment under the practitioner's supervision, is the practitioner's time spent consulting the teacher a billable treatment?

- A. No, consultations with a Medi-Cal eligible student's teacher are not a covered service in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. The reimbursement rates for treatment services already account for "preparation and completion activities." Accordingly, consultations are not separately billable in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

Q6. Our private school develops Individual Services Plans (as opposed to IEPs) for students with disabilities that will receive services through the school district during the year. Are consultations between school district staff and the private school teachers billable to Medi-Cal?

- A. No, the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program only reimburses LEAs for direct health care services provided to Medi-Cal eligible students. Consultation between staff members is not a billable service.

Q7. How do you bill medical counseling (previously billed as a health education/anticipatory guidance service) for IEP/IFSP students?

- A. Although there is no specific billing code for health education/anticipatory guidance provided to an IEP/IFSP student, medical counseling may be provided by an appropriate practitioner as a treatment service within their scope of practice. For example, if a school nurse is providing counseling on nutrition to an IEP student that has an eating disorder (and the nurse is designated as the counselor in the student's IEP), this may be billed as part of the nursing treatment service.

Q8. Are there a maximum number of students for "group" treatments?

- A. A group must be two or more students, but not more than eight students to bill for group speech therapy or psychology and counseling services under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program. For additional information, review the [loc ed serv psych](#) and [loc ed serv spe](#) sections in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q9. If there are three students in the group therapy session that lasts for 45 minutes, do we bill 45 minutes for each Medi-Cal eligible student, or do we divide the total time of the session by the number of students and bill 15 minutes for each of the students?

- A. Under this scenario, the LEA should bill 45 minutes of group therapy for each Medi-Cal eligible student who participates in the group therapy session. LEAs will bill one unit of service for each completed 15-minute increment in the initial service session, up to a maximum of 45 minutes. In this case, the LEA will bill three units of group therapy (3 units x 15 minutes = 45 minutes) for each Medi-Cal eligible student in the group therapy session; all three units will be reimbursable under one initial service maximum allowable rate. For additional information, review the [loc ed serv psych](#) and [loc ed serv spe](#) sections in the LEA Provider Manual.

Q10. Can the time spent traveling to a student's location to provide a treatment be added to the treatment time?

- A. No, the treatment time billed should reflect the actual direct service time. The interim reimbursement rates included a travel time component when they were developed as part of the rate development process.

Q11. For non-IEP/IFSP students, can we bill the LEA Program for services rendered under a Section 504 Plan?

- A. No. You may not bill Medi-Cal for services related to or provided under a Section 504 Plan.

Q12. If a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist is providing psychology and counseling treatment to a group of students with IEPs, can the LEA bill for everyone participating in the group session?

- A. If the group is a minimum of two students and no more than eight students, the LEA can bill group treatment services for each Medi-Cal eligible student who participates in the group therapy session.

Q13. Please confirm that SLP group treatment is limited to a minimum of two students, but no more than eight. I am continuously questioned about the group size because the CPT code indicates the group is generally limited to four individuals.

- A. A group must be two or more students, but no more than eight students to bill for group speech therapy or psychology and counseling services under the LEA Program.