

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROGRAM (LEA BOP) PRACTITIONER ENROLLMENT PHASED-IN APPROACH

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has implemented the phased-in approach to support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and their practitioners in meeting the requirements outlined in [PPL 26-001 Practitioner Enrollment](#). The phased-in approach is structured to provide a smooth transition for LEAs and their practitioners while supporting workload management for DHCS in five phases. DHCS collected data from the survey conducted in November 2025 and the Time Survey Participant (TSP) list for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Quarter 3 to develop this approach. The phased-in approach is intended to provide guidance and is not mandatory. LEAs are still encouraged to have practitioners begin enrolling in Medi-Cal at the earliest opportunity to reduce last-minute pressure and no financial loss.

This approach supports practitioners enrolling in Medi-Cal as ordering, referring, or prescribing (ORP) providers. For approved ORP applications, the effective enrollment date will be one year before DHCS received the complete application package, or the applicant's license date if that license became effective less than one year before submission. Therefore, this approach will meet the effective date of July 1, 2026.

Phase I – April to July 2026

- » Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- » Licensed Marriage Family Therapists
- » Licensed Physicians
- » Licensed Physician Assistants

** Phase I is four months long to account for the summer months when practitioners may not be working as students are on break, therefore including four practitioner types. **

Phase II – August to September 2026

- » Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists

- » Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioners

Phase III – October to November 2026

- » Licensed Occupational Therapists
- » Licensed Optometrists

Phase IV – December 2026 to January 2027

- » Licensed Psychologists
- » Licensed Audiologists
- » Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors

Phase V – February to March 2027

- » Licensed Physical Therapists
- » Certified Nurse Practitioners