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DHCS - LEA BOP Quarterly Newsletter – October 2025



**Local Educational Agency
Medi-Cal Billing Option Program**



LEA BOP NEWSLETTER

Program Announcements!

October 3, 2025

This Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) quarterly newsletter highlights important program updates, reminders, and topics that will be discussed at the upcoming quarterly meeting that you will surely want to attend. It also provides information that you will need to know during this second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2025-26.

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LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting (QM)

The LEA BOP QM provides an opportunity for participating LEAs and program partners to gather together, learn about program updates, and participate in focused training on a program-specific topic.

The next QM is on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break. [Please register online to attend virtually.](#)

Some agenda items and updates that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will cover from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. are:

- Audits and Investigations (A&I) Updates
- Alternative Format reminders and expectations with the end of the Alternative Format portal
- Provider Participation Agreement (PPA) and FY 2025-26 Annual Report (AR)
- State Plan Amendment (SPA) Updates
- Random Moment Time Survey Quarter 1 Implementation

The October QM afternoon trainings start at 1:00 p.m. and will cover the following topics:

- School-Based Medicaid Coordinators
 - LEA BOP Coordinator
 - LEA RMTS Coordinator
 - LEA SMAA Coordinator
- Program Guide / Provider Manual Updates

These trainings aim to assist LEAs with administering the LEA BOP successfully in order to ensure program compliance.

New Requirements

Practitioner Enrollment - Historically, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in the LEA BOP were the enrolled "provider" and the practitioners providing services were not required to enroll with Medi-Cal unless they were an Ordering, Referring, and Prescribing (ORP) practitioner, in which case they would be enrolled with Medi-Cal. However, the Centers for

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Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has clarified that they cannot reimburse for services unless the individual practitioners are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

Effective July 1, 2026, all eligible practitioners in the LEA BOP that provide direct services to Medi-Cal eligible individuals under the age of 22 must separately enroll in Medi-Cal as a furnishing provider, if there is an enrollment pathway for that practitioner type. These practitioners must enroll in Medi-Cal regardless of whether the LEA employing or contracting them is already enrolled in Medi-Cal. If DHCS has not identified an enrollment pathway for a particular practitioner type that is eligible in the LEA BOP, LEAs will still be able to bill for services rendered by those practitioners. A detailed Policy and Procedure Letter is forthcoming with the specific details and guidance on enrolling eligible practitioners into Medi-Cal.

To support this transition, DHCS is implementing a phased-in enrollment process and will be sending out a survey to gather information from LEAs that will help DHCS plan and allocate resources for support. There will be no fee associated with the enrollment process for practitioners. DHCS will provide LEAs with additional support via training during the enrollment process to ensure that LEAs can meet this requirement.

State Plan Amendment (SPA) Updates

Any changes to the LEA BOP (i.e., new services, new practitioners, or payment methodology) requires a SPA to be submitted and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Initially, DHCS proposed drafting two SPA packages; however, because there was not substantial interest in changing the LEA BOP interim reimbursement methodology, DHCS is now submitting all updates, improvements, and requirements for compliance with the CMS May 2023 Guide in one SPA. The intended effective date is July 1, 2026, which will be in compliance with the May 2023 CMS Guide and allow all changes to take effect at the beginning of a fiscal year. DHCS is currently working on posting the SPA for public comment and submitting to CMS soon for review. DHCS will notify LEAs when the public notice period begins. The SPA will include expansion to services, clean up language, and updates to language that removes participation barriers. Key changes include:

- Expansion of qualified practitioners
 - Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs)
 - Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs)
 - Community Health Workers (CHWs)

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- Certified Wellness Coaches (CWCs)
- Established proxy rates for CHWs and CWCs
- Addition of new rate for vaccine administration
- Addition of photoscreeners as a valid screening tool for vision screening
- Addition of payment methodology language for Quarter 1 RMTS
- Exemption of colleges from the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential supervision requirement
- Clean up language around Medi-Cal Enrollment Ratio (MER) language related to student enrollment count
- Removal of Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) requirement for Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- Update to payment methodology rates that used to be based on proxy rates since DHCS now has cost data to establish cost-based rates that align with LEA costs
- Update to specialized medical transportation calculation for one-way trip ratio when LEAs can discretely identify specialized transportation costs

Action Items for October – December 2025

- CBEDS Census Day
 - As a reminder from the MER Training, LEAs were responsible for extracting a file containing total LEA student enrollment on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025**. Please note, the total student enrollment data will be utilized as the denominator in the MER calculation when completing the CRCS for FY 2024-2025 (due Monday, March 2, 2026 because the usual date of March 1 is a Sunday). Please see the [September 2023 MER Training \(ca.gov\)](#) for more information.
- Provider Participation Agreement (PPA)
 - Due **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**
 - Sign and submit to LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov
- FY 2025-26 Annual Report
 - Due **Wednesday, December 31, 2025**
 - Sign and submit to LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov
- Start of Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) for FY 2025-26.

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- Work closely with your Local Education Consortium (LEC) to ensure that deadlines for the RMTS are met.
- Review your Time Study Participant (TSP) List to prepare for Quarter 3. Need guidance on what is the best way to develop your TSP list? The [October 2024 TSP Training](#) has detailed information and best practices.
- Work with your TSPs to ensure that moments are responded to timely.

Look Ahead: Things to do for January – March 2026

- CRCS for FY 2024 - 25 (due Monday, March 2, 2026, because the usual date of March 1 is a Sunday in 2026).

Technical Assistance (TA)

DHCS is dedicated to assisting LEA BOP Providers in all aspects of the program to maximize billing opportunities and to maintain compliance, such as properly completing the CRCS and submitting it on time. TA visits go beyond maintaining compliance – they reflect the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit's dedication to empowering LEA BOP Providers through comprehensive support. From offering tailored guidance to fostering program improvement, the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit plays a vital role in strengthening services and ensuring providers can effectively meet the needs of their communities.

During FY 2024-25, the Provider Relations Unit successfully completed over 69 TA on a variety of topics spanning from general enrollment to specific settlement adjustments. Continuing on with this momentum, the Provider Relations Unit has completed 14 TA visits since July 2025 and has nine TA visits either scheduled or in process. If you are interested in TA, please fill out the [TA Form](#) and submit it to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov. From there, DHCS will help clear up any questions, provide any support you may need, and set up a virtual meeting to discuss items in depth.

Upcoming CZR Outreach

The LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit will soon begin outreach to LEAs with Certification of Zero Reimbursement (CZR) submissions. These LEAs are enrolled in the program but have not submitted claims in recent years, which may indicate a need for re-engagement or clarification of their participation status. The outreach will help identify LEAs that may be unaware of their enrollment, have experienced staff turnover, or need technical assistance to resume claiming activities. LEAs identified for outreach will be contacted directly, but those seeking support proactively are encouraged to reach out to the Provider Relations Unit at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov

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LEA BOP Reminders, Meetings, and Trainings

Date/Time:	Reminders/Meetings/Trainings:
September 29, 2025 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	General and Code 2A Documentation Training (The slides will be posted soon on the LEA BOP website's Training page)
October 1, 2025	CBEDS Census Day
October 29, 2025 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session: School-Based Medicaid Coordinator and Online Program Guide / Provider Manual Updates Training
November 13, 2025	Practitioner Enrollment in PAVE (Provider Application and Validation for Enrollment) Training
December 31, 2025	DUE: PPA and FY 2025-26 AR
December 10, 2025 (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	FY 2024-25 Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Training / Provider Billing Forum, Part 2
January 28, 2026 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session: New State Plan Amendment Implementation / Time Study Implementation Plan (TSIP) Training
February 4, 2026 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	FY 2024-25 CRCS Check-In Training
March 2, 2026	DUE: CRCS for FY 2024-25
March 4, 2026	Time Survey Participant (TSP) List Development for Quarter 1 Training

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(1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	
March 18, 2026 (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	TSP Quarter 1 List Development Check-In Training
April 29, 2026 (10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	LEA BOP Quarterly Meeting Afternoon Session: SPA and TSIP Training

Please note these training dates and times are tentative and subject to change. DHCS will send e-blasts to confirm each training date in advance. Sign up [online](#) to receive updates and additional information on meetings, program policy updates, and reminders.

Meet the LEA BOP Staff

We would like to thank Lydia Outland and Natanya Kharat for their contributions and extend our best wishes in their future endeavors. And we are incredibly excited to have Luke Foster join the LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit!

Local Governmental Financing Division

Charles (Chuck) Anders, Division Chief

Medi-Cal Claims and Services Branch

Regina Zerne, Chief

School-Based Claiming and Services Section

Stephanie Magee, Chief

LEA BOP Policy & Fiscal Unit	LEA BOP Provider Relations Unit
Areas of expertise: • Policy • Claims processing	Areas of expertise: • Outreach and enrollment • Technical assistance • RMTS Compliance

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Staff: • Toua Vang, Chief • Tiffany Lai • Mindy Vang • Danna Ramos	Staff: • Sarah Borkowski, Chief • Lacey Allred • Trung Tran • Sherri Crandley • Leilany Perez • Luke Foster
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