

Skilled Professional Medical Personnel (SPMP) Classifications

*In order for an activity to be eligible for enhanced federal financial participation (FFP) (75% federal funding and 25% state funding), federal regulations require that the individual performing the activity have “professional education and training in the field of medical care or appropriate medical practice” and that the activities performed by the SPMP require the use of their professional **medical** knowledge, training, and/or expertise.*

SPMP

Provider types that meet federal requirements as SPMP in Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections [432.2](#) and [432.50](#) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Audiologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker with medical specialization or master's degree in social work
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Medical Social Worker
- Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nutritionist (with a bachelor's degree in nutrition/dietetics)
- Occupational Therapist
- Pediatric Medical Forensic Examiner
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Psychologist
- Public Health Nurse
- Registered Dental Assistant
- Registered Nurse
- Speech Pathologist

Directly Supporting Staff

In addition, federal regulations allow for enhanced FFP for “directly supporting staff” who directly support the responsibilities of the SPMP. Secretarial, stenographic, and

copying personnel and file and records clerks who provide clerical services that directly support the responsibilities of SPMP, who are directly supervised by the SPMP, and who are in an employer-employee relationship (legal or professional association) with Medi-Cal. The duty statement of the support staff or an organizational chart illustrating direct supervision can demonstrate they are supervised by the SPMP.

Federal Regulations

42 CFR 432.2

Skilled professional medical personnel means physicians, dentists, nurses, and other specialized personnel who have professional education and training in the field of medical care or appropriate medical practice and who are in an employer-employee relationship with the Medicaid agency. It does not include other nonmedical health professionals such as public administrators, medical analysts, lobbyists, senior managers or administrators of public assistance programs or the Medicaid program.

42 CFR 432.50(d)

(d) **Other limitations for FFP rate for skilled professional medical personnel and directly supporting staff** —

(1) **Medicaid agency personnel and staff.** The rate of 75 percent FFP is available for skilled professional medical personnel and directly supporting staff of the Medicaid agency if the following criteria, as applicable, are met:

(i) The expenditures are for activities that are directly related to the administration of the Medicaid program, and as such do not include expenditures for medical assistance;

(ii) The skilled professional medical personnel have professional education and training in the field of medical care or appropriate medical practice. “Professional education and training” means the completion of **a 2-year or longer program leading to an academic degree or certificate in a medically related profession.** This is

demonstrated by possession of a medical license, certificate, or other document issued by a recognized National or State medical licensure or certifying organization or a degree in a medical field issued by a college or university certified by a professional medical organization. Experience in the administration, direction, or implementation of the Medicaid program is not considered the equivalent of professional training in a field of medical care.

(iii) The skilled professional medical personnel are in positions that have **duties and responsibilities that require those professional medical knowledge and skills.**

(iv) A **State-documented employer-employee relationship exists between the Medicaid agency and the skilled professional medical personnel and directly supporting staff;** and

(v) The directly supporting staff are secretarial, stenographic, and copying personnel and

file and records clerks who provide clerical services that are directly necessary for the completion of the professional medical responsibilities and functions of the skilled professional medical staff. The **skilled professional medical staff must directly supervise the supporting staff** and the performance of the supporting staff's work.

(2) **Staff of other public agencies.** The rate of 75 percent FFP is available for staff of other public agencies if the requirements specified in [paragraph \(d\)\(1\)](#) of this section are met and the public agency has a written agreement with the Medicaid agency to verify that these requirements are met.

Note: "Public agencies" can include sub-contractors.