

A. Overview

1. Purpose:

This policy provides updated requirements for all California Children's Services (CCS)-approved satellite special care centers (SCCs) conducted by CCS-approved primary SCCs and their affiliated hospitals.

2. Background:

A CCS-approved satellite SCC is established in a hospital outpatient department that is under the supervision and medical direction of a CCS-approved primary SCC and its affiliated Tertiary or Pediatric Community hospital.¹ The satellite SCC enables a primary SCC to extend its services to a location that is distant from the primary SCC, where there is an absence of a specific type of CCS-approved specialty care service available. This allows patients and their parent/guardian/representative caregivers to receive periodic services in their local communities rather than requiring them to travel to primary SCC locations which may be at a great distance or involve significant travel time.

The CCS Program satellite center policy originated in 1985 and is currently referenced in the Chapter 3.33 Hospital Standards.² This document supersedes the Satellite Centers policy as discussed in Chapter 3.33 Hospital Standards, Section H.2 Outpatient Services.

¹ "Primary SCC" as defined in the CCS-approved hospital and SCC per Chapter 3.37.1 CCS Core Standards, Section B.2.

² CCS Provider Standards. Chapter 3.3 (Hospitals) are located at: [Provider Standards \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/ProviderStandards.aspx)

B. Requirements

All CCS satellite SCCs must comply with requirements outlined in Chapter 3.37.1 SCC General Information and Core Standards and applicable specialty-specific SCC standards, unless otherwise stated in this document.³ This includes each satellite SCC undergoing initial CCS approval and maintaining ongoing approval as a CCS-designated SCC, separate from the primary SCC.

All CCS satellite SCCs must:

1. Have a CCS-approved primary SCC of the same specialty type that is affiliated with a CCS-approved Tertiary or Pediatric Community Hospital.
2. Have its own National Provider Identifier (NPI) and a SCC number (separate from the hospital).⁴
3. Have all satellite SCC core team providers and consultants listed on a SCC directory that is separate from the primary SCC directory.
4. Provide CCS services only to the CCS specialty-specific population that is followed in the primary SCC.
5. Ensure members are seen at the primary SCC for procedures, laboratory studies, imaging, and/or treatments not available at the satellite SCC. Patients participating in clinical trials must receive treatment at the authorized clinical trial site.
6. Have a complete core team as delineated in the corresponding CCS specialty-specific standards.⁵
7. Have a core team physician and a registered nurse (RN) available on-site during all hours of clinic operation. The physician must be a pediatric core team specialist relevant to the SCC type. The registered dietitian (RD) and medical social worker (MSW) can be available in person or via synchronous telehealth for these SCC patient visits. If telehealth services are provided, the RD and MSW must be available during the same time as the patient's in-person clinical encounter. The SCC Coordinator may also be available on-site or by telehealth, as needed.

³ CCS Core and specialty-specific standards can be found at: [Provider Standards \(ca.gov\)](#) ⁴ SCC number will be assigned upon CCS approval and is listed on the DHCS [SCC by Center Type webpage](#).

⁵ CCS Core and specialty-specific standards can be found at: [Provider Standards \(ca.gov\)](#)

If the SCC specialty-specific standards require multiple physician specialists to be involved in patient care, at least one of these physicians must be available on-site at the satellite SCC. The remaining physicians may be available by synchronous telehealth visits scheduled during the same time as the patient's in-person clinical encounter. If telehealth is not feasible per the telehealth section of the Medi-Cal provider manual,⁶ the patient must be seen by the necessary specialist(s) at the primary SCC.

8. Ensure all core team members participate in quality improvement and quality assurance activities. This may be in conjunction with the primary SCC.

⁶ Medi-Cal Provider Manual. Medicine: Telehealth. Located at: [Medicine: Telehealth \(medne tele\) \(ca.gov\)](#)