

San Joaquin County Office of Education LEA Medi-Cal Billing Services

What is LEA Medi-Cal Billing?

The LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program provides the federal share of reimbursement for health assessments and treatment services for Medi-Cal eligible students within the school environment

CA Department of Health Care Services
LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Website:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/LEA.aspx>

This packet provides information on LEA Medi-Cal billing procedures

You will find out:

- ✓ who can bill for services
- ✓ what the supervision requirements are
- ✓ what kind of services can be billed
- ✓ what prescriptions and referrals are needed

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key points to remember	1
Who can bill for Medi-Cal services? And what is their supervision requirement?	2-5
Summary of prescriptions, referrals and recommendations For assessments.....	6
Summary of prescriptions, referrals and recommendations For treatment services	7
What kind of services can be billed to Medi-Cal? And what about referrals and prescriptions?	8-13
Targeted Case Management.....	14
Transportation.....	15
Assessment requirements for billing Medi-Cal.....	16
Documentation for treatment services.....	17

LEA Medi-Cal Billing

Billing for direct health care services provided to IEP/IFSP students

Key points to remember

- All treatment services billed must be written into the student's IEP or IFSP, including frequency and duration. For nursing services, "as needed" is appropriate (according to the student's diagnosis).
- Parental consent is required in order to bill Medi-Cal for student's health services.
- For assessments, the date to use for billing is the date the assessment took place. If the assessment took longer than one day, the final day it was completed is the billing date. Initial assessments are billable even if the student does not qualify for special education services. IEP meetings are not billable in the LEA Medi-Cal program.
- For speech treatment services, the physician based standards and cover letter provided by SJCOE must be in place.
- For OT/PT treatment services, a prescription from a physician must be in the student's file.

Medi-Cal is billed for services provided to students who:

- have parental consent to bill on file at the school district
 - receive Medi-Cal benefits
- receive no other health insurance benefits besides Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal reimburses the LEA based upon:

- Medi-Cal eligibility of the student on the date of service
 - various other factors determined by the Department of Health Care Services

WHO CAN BILL MEDI-CAL FOR THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE? And what is their supervision requirement?

NURSING

Registered Credentialed School Nurse

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Registered Nursing. Must have a school nurse services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Effective 1/1/81, these nurses also must show proof they have child abuse and neglect detection training. This requirement may be fulfilled through continuing education.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide nursing services.

Licensed Registered Nurse

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Registered Nursing.

Supervision Requirement: RNs who do not have a school nurse services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990 may render LEA services if supervised by a registered credentialed school nurse.

Certified Public Health Nurse

Must be licensed and certified as a public health nurse by the CA Board of Registered Nursing.

Supervision Requirement: CPHNs who do not have a school nurse services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990 may render LEA services if supervised by a registered credentialed school nurse. CPHNs providing specialized physical health care services as specified in CA Education Code Section 49423.5 may render LEA services without supervision.

Certified Nurse Practitioner

Must be licensed and certified to practice as a nurse practitioner, whose practices are predominantly that of primary care, by the CA Board of Registered Nursing.

Supervision Requirement: CNPs who do not have a school nurse services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990 may render LEA services if supervised by a registered credentialed school nurse.

Licensed Vocational Nurse

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.

Supervision Requirement: LVNs providing specialized physical health care must practice under the direction of a licensed physician, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse as specified in Education Code, Section 49423.5.

Trained Health Care Aide

Must be trained in the administration of specialized physical health care as specified in CA Education Code, Section 49423.5.

Supervision Requirement: THCAs may render LEA services only if supervised by a licensed physician or surgeon, a registered credentialed school nurse or a certified public health nurse.

Licensed Physician and Psychiatrist

Must be licensed to practice by the Medical Board of CA or the Osteopathic Medical Board of CA. Physicians employed on a half-time or greater than half-time basis must have a health services credential or a valid credential issued prior to 11/23/70.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide physician services.

PSYCHOLOGY / COUNSELING**Licensed Clinical Social Worker**

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. Must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school social work, a health services credential, or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Contracted LCSWs employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences or possess a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school social work.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Credentialed School Social Worker

Must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school social work or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. May provide psychosocial treatment services only to the extent authorized under Business and Professions Code, Sections 4996, 4996.9, 4996.14 and 4996.15 and Education Code, Section 44874.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Licensed Psychologist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Psychology. Must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology, a health services credential, or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Contracted licensed psychologists employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Psychology or possess a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Licensed Educational Psychologist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. Must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Contracted licensed educational psychologists employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences or possess a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Credentialed School Psychologist

Must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. May provide psychological treatment services only to the extent authorized under Business and Professions Code, Section 2910 and Education Code, Sections 49422 and 49424.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. Must have a pupil personnel services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Contracted LMFTs employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences or possess a pupil personnel services credential.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

Credentialed School Counselors

Must have a valid pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school counseling or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide psychology and counseling services.

SPEECH

Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide speech therapy services.

Speech-Language Pathologist

Must have a valid preliminary services credential in speech-language pathology; professional clear services credential in speech-language pathology; clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in language, speech and hearing or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Speech-language pathologists with a valid credential may provide assessment and treatment services related to speech, voice, language or swallowing disorders. Services provided by a speech-language pathologist with a clinical or rehabilitative services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990 must be provided under the direction of a licensed speech-language pathologist or a speech-language pathologist with a valid professional clear services credential in speech-language pathology only to the extent authorized under Business and Professions Code, Sections 2530.2, 2530.5 and 2532 and Education Code, Sections 44225 and 44268.

Supervision Requirements:

Speech-language pathologist with a valid preliminary or professional clear services credential: No supervision required to provide speech therapy services.

Speech-language pathologist with a valid clinical or rehabilitative services credential: Requires supervision by a licensed speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathologist with a valid professional clear services credential to provide speech therapy services.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Registered Occupational Therapist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Board of Occupational Therapy. Must be a graduate of an educational program for occupational therapists that is accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide occupational therapy services.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Licensed Physical Therapist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Physical Therapy Board. Must be a graduate of a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide physical therapy services.

AUDIOLOGY

Licensed Audiologist

Must be licensed to practice by the CA Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board. Must have a clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in audiology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990.

Supervision Requirement: No supervision required to provide audiology services.

Audiologist

Must have a clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in audiology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. May provide audiological and communication disorders assessments and treatment services. These services must be provided under the direction of licensed audiologists only to the extent authorized under Business and Professions Code, Section 2530.2 and 2530.5 and 2532 and Education Code, Sections 44225 and 44268.

Supervision Requirement: Requires supervision by a licensed audiologist to provide audiological services.

Interns and Assistants

Interns and assistants of all practitioner types are not qualified practitioners in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, and the services they provide cannot be billed to Medi-Cal.

Summary of Prescriptions, Referrals & Recommendations for Assessments (1)

Practitioner	Prescription	Referral	Recommendation
Assessments conducted by a Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist	✓ (By Physician or Podiatrist)		
Assessments conducted by a Speech Language Pathologist, Audiologist, or Audiometrist		✓ (By Physician or Dentist)	
Assessments conducted by a Psychologist, Counselor (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Credentialed School Counselor), or Social Worker			✓ (By Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Psychologist, or Licensed Educational Psychologist)
Assessments conducted by a Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, or Optometrist			✓ (By Physician or Credentialed School Nurse)

Note: (1) A parent, teacher or registered credentialed school nurse may request an assessment for a student in substitution of a prescription, referral or recommendation by an appropriate health service practitioner.

Summary of Prescriptions, Referrals & Recommendations for Treatment

Practitioner	Prescription	Referral	Recommendation
Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Treatment Services	✓ (By Physician or Podiatrist)		
Speech Therapy and Audiology Treatment Services		✓ (See Note 1)	
Psychology and Counseling Treatment Services			✓ (By Physician, Credentialed School Nurse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Psychologist, or Licensed Educational Psychologist)

Note: (1) A physician-based standards protocol may be developed and used to document medical necessity of speech and audiology treatment services to meet CA State requirements that a written referral be provided by a physician or dentist. The protocol does not fulfill federal requirements, as defined in 42 CFR 440.110©, which requires a physician or other licensed speech–language pathologist or licensed audiologist) to refer the student for speech and audiology treatment services. LEAs must meet both State and federal documentations requirements.

WHAT KIND OF SERVICES CAN BE BILLED TO MEDI-CAL?

And what about Referrals & Prescriptions?

NURSING

Nursing services include functions such as basic health care associated with actual or potential health or illness problems or the treatment thereof. Nursing services include all of the following:

Direct and indirect patient care services that ensure the safety and protection of patients; and the performance of disease prevention and restorative measures

The administration of medications and therapeutic agents necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention or rehabilitative regimen ordered by and within the scope of licensure of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or clinical psychologist as defined by Section 1316.5 of the Health and Safety Code

The performance of skin tests, immunization techniques and the withdrawal of human blood from veins and arteries

Observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, general behavior, or general physical condition that may result in the determination of abnormal characteristics, and implementation of appropriate reporting, referral, standardized procedures, or changes in treatment regimen in accordance with standardized procedures

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP health assessments (registered credentialed school nurse)
- Nursing treatments (registered credentialed school nurse, licensed registered nurse, certified public health nurse, certified nurse practitioner, licensed vocational nurse)
Note: School health aide treatments may be provided by trained health care aides.
- Targeted Case Management services (registered credentialed school nurse, licensed registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, certified nurse practitioner, certified public health nurse)

Recommendations:

Health and nutrition assessment, health education/anticipatory guidance and vision assessments require a recommendation by a physician or registered credentialed school nurse. The recommendation must be documented in the student's files. In substitution of a recommendation, a teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

PSYCHOLOGY/COUNSELING

Psychology and counseling involves the application of psychological principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting and influencing behavior, such as the principles pertaining to learning, perception, motivation, emotion and interpersonal relationships. It includes diagnosis, prevention, treatment and amelioration of psychological problems and emotional and mental disorders.

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP psychological assessments (licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, credentialed school psychologist)
- IEP/IFSP psychosocial status assessments (licensed clinical social worker, credentialed school social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, credentialed school counselor)
- Psychology and counseling treatments, including individual and group treatments (licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, credentialed school psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, credentialed school social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed physicians/psychiatrists)
- Targeted Case Management services (licensed clinical social worker, licensed educational psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed psychologist, credentialed school counselor, credentialed school psychologist, credentialed school social worker)

Recommendations:

Psychological assessments, psychosocial status assessments and health education/anticipatory guidance require a recommendation by one of the following practitioners, within the practitioner's scope of practice: Physician, registered credentialed school nurse, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist. The recommendation must be documented in the student's files. In substitution of a recommendation, a teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Psychology and counseling treatment services require a recommendation by one of the following practitioners, within the practitioner's scope of practice: Physician, registered credentialed school nurse, licensed clinical social worker, licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist. The recommendation must be documented in the student's files.

SPEECH

Speech therapy is the application of principles, methods and instrumental and non-instrumental procedures for measurement, testing, screening, evaluation, identification, prediction and counseling related to the development and disorders of speech, voice, language or swallowing. Speech-language services also include preventing, planning, directing, conducting and supervising programs for habilitating, rehabilitating, ameliorating, managing or modifying disorders of speech, voice, language or swallowing and conducting hearing screenings.

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP speech-language assessments (licensed speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathologist)
- Speech therapy treatments, including individual and group treatments (licensed speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathologist)

Referrals:

Speech-language assessments, developmental assessments and hearing assessments (screenings) require a written referral by a physician or dentist within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written referral must be maintained in the student's files. In substitution of a written referral, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Speech therapy treatment services require a written referral by a physician, dentist or licensed speech-language pathologist within the practitioner's scope of practice. If a written referral is provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist, the LEA must also develop and implement Physician Based Standards. The written referral must be maintained in the student's files.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist:

The supervising licensed speech-language pathologist or speech-language pathologist with a valid professional clear services credential must be individually involved with patient care and accept responsibility for the actions of the credentialed speech-language pathologist under his or her supervision. The amount and type of supervision required should be consistent with the skills and experience of the credentialed speech-language pathologist and with the standard of care necessary to provide appropriate patient treatment.

The annual duties of the supervising speech-language pathologist include, but are not limited to:

- Periodically observing assessments, evaluation and therapy
- Periodically observing preparation and planning activities
- Periodically reviewing client and patient records and monitoring and evaluating assessment and treatment decisions of the credentialed speech-language pathologist

The supervising practitioner must see each patient at least once, have some input into the type of care provided, and review the patient after treatment has begun.

A supervising speech-language pathologist must be available by telephone during the workday to consult with the credentialed speech-language pathologist, as needed.

Speech, continued

Physician Based Standards:

If the individual written referral is provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist, the LEA must develop and implement Physician Based Standards. The standards must establish minimum standards of medical need for referrals to speech therapy treatment services. The standards must be reviewed and approved by a physician. The LEA must ensure that the standards are subsequently reviewed/ revised and approved by a physician no less than once every two years. The following documentation must be maintained and available for State and/or Federal review:

- In each student's file:
 - A copy of the cover letter signed by the physician that states the physician reviewed and approved the protocol standards; the cover letter must include contact information for the physician
 - Proof that the services rendered are consistent with the protocol standards
- In the LEA's file:
 - A printed copy of the protocol standards
 - Contact information for individuals responsible for developing the protocol standards
 - Contact information for the practitioners who have reviewed and rely upon the protocol standards to document medical necessity

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapy is the therapeutic use of goal-directed activities (occupations) that maximize independence, prevent or minimize disability and maintain health. Occupational therapy services include occupational therapy assessment, treatment, education and consultative services. Occupational therapy assessment identifies performance abilities and limitations that are necessary for self-maintenance, learning, work and other similar meaningful activities. Occupational therapy treatment is focused on developing, improving or restoring functional daily living skills, compensating for and preventing dysfunction or minimizing disability.

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP occupational therapy assessments (registered occupational therapist)
- Occupational therapy treatments (registered occupational therapist)

Prescriptions:

Occupational therapy assessments and developmental assessments require a written prescription by a physician or podiatrist, within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written prescription must be maintained in the student's files. In substitution of a written prescription, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Occupational therapy treatment services require a written prescription by a physician or podiatrist, within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written prescription must be maintained in the student's files.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapy is the physical or corrective rehabilitation or physical or corrective treatment of any bodily or mental condition of a person by the use of physical, chemical or other properties of heat, light, water, electricity or sound and by massage and active, resistive or passive exercise. Physical therapy includes evaluation, treatment planning, instruction and consultative services.

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP physical therapy assessments (licensed physical therapist)
- Physical therapy treatments (licensed physical therapist)

Prescriptions:

Physical therapy assessments and developmental assessments require a written prescription by a physician or podiatrist, within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written prescription must be maintained in the student's files. In substitution of a written prescription, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Physical therapy treatment services require a written prescription by a physician or podiatrist, within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written prescription must be maintained in the student's files.

AUDIOLOGY

Audiology is the application of principles, methods and procedures of measurement, testing, appraisal, prediction, consultation, counseling, instruction related to auditory, vestibular and related functions and the modification of communicative disorders involving speech, language, auditory behavior or other aberrant behavior resulting from auditory dysfunction.

Covered Services (by provider type):

- IEP/IFSP audiological assessments (licensed audiologist, audiologist)
- Audiology treatment and hearing checks (licensed audiologist, audiologist)

Referrals:

Audiological assessments (evaluations) and hearing assessments (screenings) require a written referral by a physician or dentist, within the practitioner's scope of practice. The written referral must be maintained in the student's files. In substitution of a written referral, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Audiology treatment services require a written referral by a physician, dentist or licensed audiologist within the practitioner's scope of practice. If a written referral is provided by a licensed audiologist, the LEA must also develop and implement Physician Based Standards. The written referral must be maintained in the student's files.

Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist and/or Audiologist:

The supervising licensed speech-language pathologist or licensed audiologist must be individually involved with patient care and accept responsibility for the actions of the credentialed speech-language pathologist or credentialed audiologist under his or her supervision. The amount and type of supervision required should be consistent with the skills

Audiology, continued

and experience of the credentialed speech-language pathologist or credentialed audiologist, and with the standard of care necessary to provide appropriate patient treatment.

The annual duties of the supervising speech-language pathologist or audiologist include, but are not limited to:

- Periodically observing assessments, evaluation and therapy
- Periodically observing preparation and planning activities
- Periodically reviewing client and patient records and monitoring and evaluating assessment and treatment decisions of the credentialed speech-language pathologist or credentialed audiologist

The licensed practitioner must see each patient at least once, have some input into the type of care provided, and review the patient after treatment has begun.

Physician Based Standards:

If the individual written referral is provided by a licensed audiologist, the LEA must develop and implement Physician Based Standards. The standards must establish minimum standards of medical need for referrals to audiology treatment services. The standards must be reviewed and approved by a physician. The LEA must ensure that the standards are subsequently reviewed/ revised and approved by a physician no less than once every two years. The following documentation must be maintained and available for State and/or Federal review:

- In each student's file:
 - A copy of the cover letter signed by the physician that states the physician reviewed and approved the protocol standards; the cover letter must include contact information for the physician
 - Proof that the services rendered are consistent with the protocol standards
- In the LEA's file:
 - A printed copy of the protocol standards
 - Contact information for individuals responsible for developing the protocol standards
 - Contact information for the practitioners who have reviewed and rely upon the protocol standards to document medical necessity

TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT

Components of Targeted Case Management (TCM) include determining student needs, developing a plan of care and coordinating services, including assessing services outside the school system.

Targeted case management services assist eligible children and eligible family members to access needed medical, social, educational and other services when TCM is covered by the student's IEP or IFSP.

The components of TCM include:

Determining needs, developing plan, linking and consulting coordination, accessing services outside the school system, assisting with crises and reviewing progress. TCM does not include diagnostic or treatment services, educational activities that may be reasonably expected in the school system, administrative activities or program activities that do not meet the definition of TCM.

The CA Department of Health Care Service recommends that each Medi-Cal eligible student is assigned one case manager who has the ability to provide students with comprehensive TCM services. However, it is recognized that some students will receive TCM services from more than one agency or provider.

To avoid duplication of services and billing, LEAs must do the following:

1. Clearly document the LEA and TCM services rendered by each TCM agency or provider
2. Where necessary, develop written agreements to define the case management service(s) each agency and/or provider will be responsible for rendering.

The following practitioners may participate in TCM in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, and do not require supervision:

Registered credentialed school nurses, licensed registered nurses, certified public health nurses, certified nurse practitioners, licensed vocational nurses, licensed clinical social workers, credentialed school social workers, licensed psychologists, licensed educational psychologists, credentialed school psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapists, credentialed school counselors and program specialists.

Program Specialist Qualifications

Must have a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education. They must also complete a post baccalaureate professional preparation program in accordance with requirements to qualify for a valid special education credential, clinical or rehabilitative services credential, health services credential or a school psychologist authorization. Program Specialists may only participate in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program in the area of Case Management.

TRANSPORTATION

In order to bill Medi-Cal for transportation, transportation must be provided in a litter van or wheelchair van for students with an IEP or IFSP, and must be included in the IEP or IFSP.

Covered Services:

- Medical transportation (trip)
- Mileage (must be in conjunction with trip)

Note: Transportation between the student's home and school is covered only when the student receives Medi-Cal covered services at the school or service site on the date that transportation is billed.

Litter Van Transportation

- LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van are no longer required to be transported in a prone or supine position, because they are incapable of sitting for the period of time needed to transport.
- LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a gurney are no longer required to be secured to a gurney by restraining belts while being loaded, unloaded and transported.

Wheelchair Van Transportation

- LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van are no longer required to be transported in a wheelchair or assisted to and from residence, vehicle and place of treatment because of a disabling physical or mental limitation.
- LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a wheelchair are no longer required to be secured to wheelchairs while being loaded, unloaded or transported.

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, LEAs may begin billing for LEA medical transportation services provided in a litter van or wheelchair van for Medi-Cal eligible students who are not confined to a wheelchair or in a prone or supine position. All other medical transportation provisions outline in CCR, Title 22 Sections 51360 and 51491 still apply.

Assessment Requirements for Billing LEA Medi-Cal

According to the CA Department of Health Care Services' LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Provider Manual, the following activities are required for billable assessments:

Initial & Triennial IEP/IFSP Assessments:

- Review student records, such as cumulative files, health history, and/or medical records
- Interview the student and/or parent/guardian
- Observe the student in the classroom and other appropriate settings
- Schedule and administer psychosocial tests, developmental tests, and/or physical health assessments; score and interpret test results, as applicable
- Write a report to summarize assessment results and recommendations for additional LEA services

Annual & Amended/Review IEP/IFSP Assessments:

- Review student records, such as cumulative files, health history, and/or medical records
- Interview the student and/or parent/guardian
- Observe the student in the classroom and other appropriate settings
- Additional testing when needed

The written assessment report and related case notes should be maintained to document activities performed for each IEP/IFSP assessment.

LEA MEDI-CAL BILLING

Documentation for treatment services provided to students

Question: What is required for documenting treatment services?

Answer: Practitioners should write progress notes each time the student is treated and save those notes in the student's file. Each service should be documented with the student's name, date of service, practitioner type and signature. Notes made documenting the service should be consistent with the practitioner's professional standards.

To help audit-proof your Medi-Cal claims,
keep in mind the following when documenting your treatment services:

1. Is the treatment service included in the IEP/IFSP?
2. Was the service provided relevant to the IEP/IFSP goals?
3. What activity was done during the treatment service?
4. What was the outcome of the activity?
5. What was the measure of the student's progress?
6. Was the treatment service consistent with standard practices?