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Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: December 18, 2019

PPL NO. 19-033

TO: Local Educational Agencies

SUBJECT: Elimination of CPT Codes 96150, 96151, 96152 and 96153 and implementation of new replacement CPT Codes 96156, 96158, 96159, 96164, and 96165

This Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) notifies Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) that current procedural terminology (CPT) codes 96150, 96151, 96152, and 96153, currently used to bill LEA psychology/counseling and health/nutritional services will be eliminated effective January 1, 2020, and replaced with new CPT codes. The chart below identifies the CPT codes that will be eliminated and the replacement codes that will take effect January 1, 2020.

OLD CPT Codes <i>(currently effective for dates of service prior to January 1, 2020)</i>	LEA Service Descriptions	NEW CPT Codes <i>(effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2020)</i>
96150	Psychosocial Status Assessment (IEP/IFSP initial/triennial and annual assessments and non-IEP initial assessments) Health/Nutrition Assessment (IEP/IFSP initial/triennial and annual assessments and non-IEP initial assessments)	96156
96150-52	Psychosocial Status Assessment (IEP/IFSP annual) Health/Nutrition Assessments (IEP/IFSP annual)	96156-52
96151	Psychosocial Status Re-Assessment (IEP/IFSP amended and non-IEP re-assessments) Health/Nutrition (IEP/IFSP amended and non-IEP re-assessments)	96156-TS
96152	Individual Psychology/Counseling (15-45 minutes - initial service increment)	96158
96152-22	Individual Psychology/Counseling (15 minutes - additional service increment)	96159 (no modifier 22 necessary)

OLD CPT Codes <i>(currently effective for dates of service <u>prior</u> to January 1, 2020)</i>	LEA Service Descriptions	NEW CPT Codes <i>(effective for dates of service on or <u>after</u> January 1, 2020)</i>
96153	Group Psychology/Counseling (15-45 minutes - initial service increment)	96164
96153-22	Group Psychology Counseling (15-minutes - additional service increment)	96165 (no modifier 22 necessary)

For dates of service **before** January 1, 2020, LEAs should continue to bill using the current CPT codes. For services rendered on or **after** January 1, 2020, LEAs should bill using the new, replacement CPT codes.

DHCS expects the new procedure codes to be implemented in the claims processing system during the first quarter of 2020. Until the changes are implemented, LEAs have two options for submitting claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2020:

- Hold affected claims and submit them using the **new** CPT codes after the system changes are completed, or
- Submit claims beginning January 1, 2020 using the **new** replacement CPT codes; initially, the claims will be denied, but will be automatically reprocessed through an Erroneous Payment Correction (EPC) once the system changes are completed. No further action will be necessary by LEAs to be included in the EPC.

The service descriptions, rates, and applicable IEP/IFSP and practitioner modifiers will not change with this transition; however, LEAs should carefully review the CPT description to ensure they accurately bill for the service provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

The LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program Provider Manual will be updated to reflect the new replacement CPT codes and modifiers.

If you have any questions concerning this PPL, please contact the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program by e-mail at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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Rick Record, Chief
Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program