



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: November 5, 2020

PPL 20-051

TO: Local Educational Agency (LEA) Coordinators for the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP)

SUBJECT: LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROGRAM COORDINATION OF MENTAL HEALTH RELATED SERVICES

This Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) notifies stakeholders participating in the LEA BOP that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) encourages the coordination of mental health related services with their respective Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), County Office of Education (COE), County Mental Health Plan (MHP) and Managed Care Organization (MCO).

Background

The LEA BOP reimburses LEAs (school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, community college districts, California State Universities and University of California campuses) the federal share of the allowable rate for approved health-related services by qualified health care practitioners to Medi-Cal enrolled students under age 22. The LEAs participation in the LEA BOP is voluntary.

LEA BOP Coordination of Mental Health Related Services

The LEA BOP provides mental health related assessment services to Medi-Cal enrolled students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). After the assessment is conducted, a report of the findings and recommendations for related services are provided to the evaluation team. If the student has a disability that falls into one of the thirteen categories identified under Part B of IDEA, a student may be considered eligible for special education and related services. In these cases, an IEP or IFSP may be developed for the student identifying the services the student will receive, based upon his or her individual needs.

In cases where a student is not eligible for IDEA, the student may receive medically necessary services through an Individualized Health and Support Plan (IHSP). The IHSP is a care plan used by the LEA as a medical management tool for providing medically necessary healthcare services to a Medi-Cal enrolled student in a school setting outside of the IEP or IFSP. The plan should be developed by a registered

credentialed school nurse or qualified medical practitioner acting within their scope of practice, in collaboration with the parent or guardian, and if appropriate, the student.

LEA BOP Mental Health Related Assessments and Treatment Services:

- **Psychological Assessments**
 - Psychological assessments are a set of assessment procedures administered by a licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, or credentialed school psychologist to obtain information about a student's learning, behavior, or mental health. These assessments include initial IEP/IFSP assessments, as well as annual, amended, and triennial IEP/IFSP assessments.
- **Psychosocial Status Assessments**
 - A psychosocial status assessment is an evaluation of an individual's mental health and social wellbeing. It assesses the perception of self and the individual's ability to function in the school setting and how they interact with others socially. Psychosocial status assessments for IEP/IFSP students are conducted by a licensed clinical social worker, credentialed school social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist or credentialed school counselor.
 - For students who do not qualify for IDEA services, psychosocial status assessments are conducted by a licensed or credentialed social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, credentialed school counselor, licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist or credentialed school psychologist.
- **Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance**
 - Health education/anticipatory guidance includes preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction interventions. This LEA BOP service may be conducted by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, registered credentialed school nurse, licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, credentialed school psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, credentialed school social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, or credentialed school counselor.
- **Psychology and Counseling Treatments**
 - Psychology and counseling treatment services include diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of psychological problems and emotional and mental disorders. These treatment services are provided by a licensed psychologist, licensed educational psychologist, credentialed school psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, credentialed school social worker, registered associate clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, associate marriage and family therapist, licensed physician assistant or a licensed physician.

LEA Service Structure

1. Allowable services covered under the LEA BOP must be provided by allowable, qualified practitioners and may be billed by LEAs participating in the LEA BOP¹.
2. LEAs have the option to refer students to contracted community-based programs or provide counseling by a LEA BOP approved qualified rendering practitioner.
3. LEAs may provide care coordination with MCOs or MHPs for the delivery of mental health services.
4. LEAs may coordinate services with their SELPA.
 - a. A SELPA is responsible for providing all special education services based on the needs of the students that reside in the SELPA's geographical region.
 - b. Each SELPA has a developed plan that outlines how it will provide special education services. Therefore, a SELPA can facilitate high quality educational programs and services for students with special needs, as well as coordinate mental health services at the county level².

All other mental health services and other mental health services practitioners that may otherwise be covered by County Mental Health Plans (MHPs) fall outside the scope of allowable services/practitioners eligible under the LEA BOP.

If you have questions concerning this PPL, please contact DHCS by e-mail at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jacob Mills
Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program

¹ See the LEA Provider Manual, Section *loc ed bil* for information on covered services and qualified rendering practitioners.

² In many cases, SELPAs are also the County Office of Education, but there are instances where SELPAs are not county-based. In these instances, LEAs can partner with their SELPA and County Office of Education for support.