



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

Date: March 18, 2021

PPL NO. 21-007

To: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

Subject: LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY MEDI-CAL BILLING OPTION PROGRAM (LEA BOP) INTERPRETATION OF “COMPLETE 15-MINUTE PERIOD” FOLLOWING AN INITIAL SERVICE INCREMENT

The purpose of this Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) is to inform LEA Providers participating in the LEA BOP of how the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will interpret Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 51535.5 (g)(1), “Additional 15-minute period means any complete 15-minute period immediately following the maximum minutes allowed for the initial service unit.” For Medi-Cal billing purposes, DHCS will interpret a “complete 15-minute period” as services rendered for seven or more continuous minutes following a completed initial service unit of 45 minutes. Once seven or more continuous minutes of service are rendered, an additional service unit may be rounded up and one 15-minute increment may be billed. If the initial service time is not greater than 45 minutes, the LEA is not eligible to bill an additional 15-minute service increment.

Under this policy, DHCS will allow the following additional service units to be billed:

Initial Service Time Spent	Additional Service Time Spent	Total Time with Student	Allowable Additional Service Units
45 minutes	0 – 6 minutes	Up to 51 minutes	0
45 minutes	7-21 minutes	Up to 66 minutes	1
45 minutes	22-36 minutes	Up to 81 minutes	2
45 minutes	37-51 minutes	Up to 96 minutes	3
45 minutes	52-66 minutes	Up to 111 minutes	4
45 minutes	67-81 minutes	Up to 126 minutes	5
45 minutes	82-96 minutes	Up to 141 minutes	6

This PPL only impacts LEA services that have an initial treatment increment of 15 to 45 minutes and an accompanying additional 15-minute service increment. For services billed only in 15-minute increments, the current policy is still in effect, which allows rounding up to the nearest 15-minute increment when seven or more continuous minutes of service are provided.

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

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Stephanie Magee, Chief
Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program