

**From:** [LEA \(MB\)@DHCS](mailto:LEA(MB)@DHCS)  
**To:** LEA BOB List Serv  
**Subject:** DHCS-LEA BOP: Updates to CPT Code 99401 and the "CR" Modifier  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:30:02 AM

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**September 20, 2022**

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***Please do not reply to this e-mail.***

To All Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) Providers,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is committed to providing LEAs with the information they need to take full advantage of the benefits available under the LEA BOP. This e-blast notifies LEA BOP Providers about two changes for claims billed under Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99401, *"Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (separate procedure); approximately 15 minutes."*

Here's what you need to know:

1. **Effective August 22, 2022, claims billed under CPT code 99401 will be limited to one unit per beneficiary per provider per day and will be paid at one unit of service.** Any under-reimbursement in interim claims for 99401 will be settled via the Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) and final settlement process.

This change is aligned with Medi-Cal policy and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits, which identifies billing for multiple units as a Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE). Additionally, DHCS reviewed historical claims for 99401 and discovered that 50 percent of claims are only billed with one unit of service. Upon review, DHCS does not believe that the cutback to one unit of service will significantly impact the LEA BOP Provider's interim reimbursement.

2. **The "CR" modifier has been added for CPT 99401 to allow providers to bill for COVID-19 Counseling Services.** Claims with "CR" modifier for dates of service from July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, may be submitted through October 31, 2022. Claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2021, must be submitted within the usual LEA BOP timeline of 12 months following the month in which services were rendered.

The LEA BOP Provider Manual will be updated to reflect these changes.

If you have any questions, please email [LEA@DHCS.CA.gov](mailto:LEA@DHCS.CA.gov).

For information regarding the LEA BOP, visit the [LEA BOP website](#).

To subscribe/unsubscribe, go to the [e-mail subscription web page](#).

Sincerely,

**LEA BOP Staff**

[LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program](#) | [Department of Health Care Services](#)

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