



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2020

State Plan Amendment 15-021 Collaboration Letter

Dear School Stakeholders:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE), is informing school-based programs of California's Medicaid State Plan Amendment 15-021 (SPA 15-021) retroactively effective July 1, 2015. SPA 15-021 will enhance the availability of federal reimbursement for participants in the Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP).

The LEA BOP is authorized under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 14132.06 and 14115.8, and provides that participating LEAs (school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, community college districts, California State Universities and University of California campuses) enter into and maintain a contract with DHCS to administer program services. LEAs receive matching funds from the federal government for reimbursable services that have already been provided by qualified health care practitioners to Medi-Cal eligible students under the age of 22.

Historically, small school districts have chosen not to participate due to limited local resources and lack of administrative support. SPA 15-021's expanded services may encourage greater participation through a regional consortium enabling more LEAs to receive matching federal funds by expanding the population of eligible students and types of services eligible for reimbursement and allowing smaller districts to collectively share in the cost of program participation.

LEA BOP allowable Medi-Cal covered services are authorized in the California Medicaid State Plan, which is a contractual agreement between the State of California and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). SPA 15-021 expands reimbursement to include covered services to all Medi-Cal enrolled students with a Care

Plan¹ or Individualized Health and Support Plan (IHSP), which will allow LEAs to receive reimbursement for eligible beneficiaries beyond those with an Individualized Education

Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) resulting in increased services for Medi-Cal eligible general education students.

Prior to approval of SPA 15-021, LEAs were subject to a claiming limit of 24 non-IEP/IFSP services per state fiscal year. SPA 15-021 removes this claiming limitation. Additionally, SPA 15-021 authorizes the following:

New Assessments

- Orientation and Mobility
- Respiratory

New Treatments

- Activities of Daily Living (Nursing and School Health Aide Services)
- Group Treatment Services (Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy)
- Nutritional Services
- Orientation and Mobility Services
- Respiratory Therapy Services

New Practitioners

- Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Credentialed and Mobility Specialist
- Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant
- Licensed Physician Assistant
- Registered Associate Clinical Social Worker
- Registered Dietitian
- Registered Marriage and Family Therapist Intern
- Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner
- Registered Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Expanded services will be retroactive to July 1, 2015.

DHCS is committed to assisting LEAs with providing Medi-Cal services through the LEA BOP and is dedicated to providing necessary training and technical assistance to implement these upcoming changes. Currently, DHCS is providing information, training, and education related to SPA 15-021 through web conferencing and direct support

¹ A "Care Plan" is a medical management tool for providing medically necessary healthcare services to a student in a school setting. Other common names for a "Care Plan" are a nursing plan, IHSP, Plan of Care, Individualized School Healthcare Plan or 504 Plan.

options as requested. Technical assistance related to LEA BOP and SPA 15-021 is always available upon request through the LEA BOP email (LEA@dhcs.ca.gov).

Below are links to program resources and information

- LEA Website:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/LEA.aspx>
- LEA
Overview:https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ACLSS/LEA%20BOP/Program_Req_and_Info/Overview_Jan_2018.pdf
- LEA BOP State Plan Overview
https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ACLSS/LEA%20BOP/Program_Req_and_Info/LEA-BOP-State-Plan-Amendment-Overview.pdf
- Technical Assistance Request
https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ACLSS/LEA%20BOP/Program_Req_and_Info/Tech_Assist_Req_6300.pdf

For more information regarding this matter, please contact Jillian Mongetta at Jillian.Mongetta@dhcs.ca.gov or Stacey Wedin at SWedin@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JILLIAN MONGETTA**

Jillian Mongetta, Chief
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**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
SARAH NEVILLE-MORGAN**

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