
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Nursing

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This section contains information about nursing and school health aide services rendered in connection with the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

- Qualifications that practitioners must meet to render services are outlined in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Rendering Practitioner Qualifications* section of this manual.
- Modifier descriptions are located in the *Modifiers: Approved List* section of this manual. Additional modifier information is in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Billing and Reimbursement Overview* section of this manual.
- «Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Health and Support Plan (IHSP) are defined in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA): Individualized Plans* section of this manual.»
- Documentation and records retention requirements are described in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA): A Provider's Guide* section of this manual.

Nursing and School Health Aide Services

«Nursing services include functions such as basic health care associated with actual or potential health or illness problems or the treatment thereof as defined by California *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2725.» Nursing services include all of the following:

- «Direct and indirect patient care services that ensure the safety, comfort, personal hygiene and protection of patients and the performance of disease prevention and restorative measures
- Direct and indirect patient services, including, but not limited to the administration of medications and therapeutic agents necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention or rehabilitative regimen ordered by and within the scope of licensure of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or clinical psychologist as defined by Section 1316.5 of the *Health and Safety Code*»
- The performance of skin tests, immunization techniques and the withdrawal of human blood from veins and arteries
- «Observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, general behavior, or general physical condition that may result in the determination of abnormal characteristics, and implementation of appropriate reporting, referral, standardized procedures, or changes in treatment regimen in accordance with standardized procedures or the initiation of emergency procedures»

«Trained health care aides may render LEA school health aide services only if they perform those services under the supervision of a licensed physician, a registered credentialed school nurse or a certified public health nurse. (*California Education Code*, Section 49423.5 and *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, Section. 3051.12).»

Covered Services

Nursing services include:

- IEP/IFSP health assessments
- «Nutrition assessments (includes IEP/IFSP and non-IEP/IFSP)
- Health education/anticipatory guidance (non-IEP/IFSP)
- Vision assessments (includes Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) vision screenings performed pursuant to the mandated periodicity schedule, and medically necessary non-IEP/IFSP vision assessments performed outside of the mandated periodicity schedule)
- Hearing assessments (includes EPSDT hearing screenings performed pursuant to the mandated periodicity schedule, and medically necessary non-IEP/IFSP hearing assessments performed outside of the mandated periodicity schedule)
- Nutritional counseling treatments
- Nursing treatments and school health aide treatment services»

Rendering Practitioners: Reimbursable Services

The following chart indicates the services that are reimbursable to LEAs when performed by the indicated qualified practitioner(s).

Reimbursable Services to LEAs Table

Qualified Practitioners	Reimbursable Services
Registered credentialed school nurses Licensed registered nurses Certified public health nurses Certified nurse practitioners	IEP/IFSP health assessments Nutrition assessments (includes IEP/IFSP and non-IEP/IFSP) Health education/anticipatory guidance (non-IEP/IFSP) Vision assessments (screenings) Nursing treatments Nutritional counseling treatments
Registered credentialed school nurses that are registered school audiometrists	Hearing assessments (screenings)
Licensed vocational nurses	Nursing treatments
Trained health care aides	School health aide treatment services consisting of: Specialized physical health care services include gastric tube feeding, suctioning, oxygen administration, catheterization and nebulizer treatments Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) include eating, toileting, transferring, positioning, mobility assistance, and cueing or directing the completion of an ADL task

«IEP/IFSP assessments that fall within the nursing scope of practice are billable as health assessments if they meet LEA Billing Option Program (BOP) requirements.

Treatment services that are within the nursing scope of practice are billable as nursing treatments if they meet LEA BOP requirements. Administration of required immunizations that are pursuant to the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics [“Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care”](#) may be billed as nursing treatments if they meet LEA BOP billing requirements. Trained health care aides are not authorized to bill for administration of immunizations.»

School Health Aide

School health aide treatment services are categorized into two covered service areas: Administration of specialized physical health care services and assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).

Specialized Physical Health Care Services

Specialized physical health care services (specified in *California Education Code*, Section 49423.5[d]) include catheterization, gastric tube feeding, suctioning, or other services that require medically related training. In addition, these services require the qualified designated school personnel to demonstrate competence in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (*California Education Code*, Section 49423.5[c]). These services must be determined by the credentialed school nurse or licensed physician, in consultation with the physician treating the student, to be all of the following:

- Routine for the pupil.
- Pose little potential harm for the pupil.
- Performed with predictable outcomes, as defined in the individualized education program of the pupil.
- Do not require a nursing assessment, interpretation, or decision making by the designated school personnel.

California Education Code, Section 49423.5(a)(2).

Daily documentation of the specific services being provided must be maintained for any student required to have specialized physical health care services during the school day, prescribed for him or her by a licensed physician (*California Code of Regulations [CCR]*, Title 5, Section 3051.12).

«Qualified, designated school personnel trained in administration of specialized physical health care may perform these services under supervision of a credentialed school nurse, public health nurse or licensed physician and surgeon, as defined by CCR, Title 5, Section 3051.12.»

«Activities of Daily Living Assistance Services

Activities of Daily Living (ADL) assistance services include basic, personal, everyday activities including, but not limited to, tasks such as eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, transferring, positioning, mobility assistance and cueing or directing the completion of an ADL task. These services include direct intervention (assisting the student in performing a task) or indirect intervention (cueing or redirecting the student to perform a task) and require a physician's prescription. ADL assistance services shall not be performed as a group service; however, one or more students may be served one-at-a-time sequentially. ADL assistance services include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assisting with routine ADLs, such as or
 - Feeding;
 - Dressing and grooming;
 - Bathing; or
 - Toileting.
- Assisting a student to ambulate, position or transfer.
- Bowel and bladder care.
- Cueing, redirecting or monitoring to ensure the student performs ADL tasks because a cognitive impairment prevents an individual from knowing when or how to carry out the task.
- Helping with use of assistive devices.
- Observation/monitoring and redirection/intervention to assist with completion of ADLs.»

«ADL assistance activities do not include the following:

- Assisting the student with educational activities, such as tutoring, preparation of educational materials or Braille interpretation.
- Classroom support, including redirecting, cueing and intervening to help a child stay on task to complete school assignments, projects or activities.
- Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), such as assistance with meal preparation, household chores, teaching a child to grocery shop, manage finances or get around in the community by taking the bus.
- Assisting with ADLs or IADLs that a typically developing child of the same chronological age could not safely and independently perform without adult supervision.
- Monitoring or observation of a child who may have behavioral episodes in the classroom.
- Services provided by a bus monitor (while monitoring a group of students on the bus).

For all covered school health aide treatment services, only direct time spent actually providing a covered medical service may be billed. Indirect service time, such as documenting services in a treatment log, may not be billed.

Continuous Monitoring

In cases where a physician has authorized one-on-one continuous monitoring of a student's medical condition as a medically necessary service, the continuous monitoring time may be billed. However, for the continuous monitoring to be a billable service in the LEA Program, the trained health care aide must document observations and/or treatment activities at least every 15 minutes in progress notes and/or treatment logs. Note that Medi-Cal billing is not substantiated if the practitioner only documents time spent or identifies that the student was physically present, without documenting what was observed or what action was taken for the student.»

Recommendations

«Assessments»

The following services require a recommendation by a physician or registered credentialed school nurse. The recommendation must be documented in the student's files. In substitution of a recommendation, a teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

- «IEP/IFSP health assessments
- Nutrition assessments
- Health education/anticipatory guidance (non-IEP/IFSP)
- Vision assessments/screenings
- Hearing assessments/screenings (must be performed by registered credentialed school nurses who are registered school audiometrists)

Note: When mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) hearing and vision screenings are conducted, the Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care, published by The American Academy of Pediatrics, will act as the recommendation for the hearing or vision screening.»

«Referrals

Nutritional Counseling Treatments

All treatment services must be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan. Nursing treatments that require a referral by a physician include nutritional counseling treatment services. The referral may be obtained from physicians employed by or contracted with the LEA or may come from the student's primary care physician.

A referring physician does not need to be the student's primary care physician and does not need to personally evaluate the student to issue a referral for nutritional counseling treatment services. However, the referring physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating practitioner, and must review the student's records prior to referring services. If authority has been delegated by a supervising physician, the following practitioners may sign authorization forms:

- Nurse practitioners practicing under standardized procedures, developed in collaboration with a physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Section 2835.7)
- Physician assistants with a written Practice Agreement (prior to January 1, 2020, a Delegation of Services Agreement) and who are under the supervision of a licensed physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Sections 3502 and 3502.3)

The written referral, which must be maintained in the student's files, must be updated annually and is valid for one year from the date of the referral. Referrals may be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan.»

«Prescriptions

Nursing Treatments

All treatment services must be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan. Nursing treatments, including ADL assistance services and specialized physical health care services, require a prescription by a physician.

Prescriptions for nursing treatment services may be provided by the student's primary care physician. However, authorization for services may also be obtained from physicians employed by or contracted with the LEA.

A prescribing physician does not need to be the student's primary care physician and does not need to personally evaluate the student to issue a recommendation, referral or prescription for nursing treatment services. However, the prescribing physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating nurse and must review the student's records prior to recommending, referring or prescribing services.

If authority has been delegated by a supervising physician, the following practitioners may sign authorization forms:

- Nurse practitioners practicing under standardized procedures, developed in collaboration with a physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Section 2835.7)
- Physician assistants with a written Practice Agreement (prior to January 1, 2020, a Delegation of Services Agreement) and who are under the supervision of a licensed physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Sections 3502 and 3502.3)

The written prescription, which must be maintained in the student's files, must be updated annually and is valid for one year from the date of the prescription. Prescriptions may be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan.»

Supervision Requirements

The following chart indicates whether a rendering practitioner requires supervision to provide nursing or school health care aide services.

Supervision Requirements Table

Qualified Practitioners	Reimbursable Services
«Registered credentialed school nurses Certified public health nurses»	No supervision required to provide nursing services
«Licensed registered nurses Certified nurse practitioners	No supervision required to provide nursing services, except specialized physical health care services When conducting specialized physical health care services, must be supervised by a credentialed school nurse, public health nurse or licensed physician»
Licensed vocational nurses	Requires supervision by a licensed physician, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse to provide nursing treatment services
Trained health care aides (THCA)	Requires supervision by a licensed physician, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse to provide school health aide treatment services Note: Documentation of supervision must include the supervising practitioner's signature, title and date of signature on the nursing treatment log or other documentation supporting the service delivery. Supporting documentation required for continuous monitoring of a medically necessary specialized physical health care service must be included with the nursing treatment log.

A registered credentialed school nurse includes the Preliminary School Nurse Services Credential and the Professional Clear School Nurse Services Credential. A Preliminary School Nurse Services Credential is considered a valid school nurse services credential and does not require supervision to provide nursing services.

Service Limitations: Daily

«Nursing services provided by RNs, LVNs and trained health care aides that are authorized in an IEP, IFSP or IHSP are limited to 32 units per student, per day.

Nutritional counseling treatment services provided by RNs that are authorized in an IEP, IFSP or IHSP are limited to 24 units per student, per day.

Nutrition assessments and health education/anticipatory guidance provided to non-IEP/IFSP students are limited to four units per student, per day.

Vision assessments provided to non-IEP/IFSP students are limited to one per student, per day.»

Treatment Services Billed Using 15-Minute Increments

«Nursing treatment services, nutritional counseling services and school health aide treatment services are billed in 15-minute increments and do not have separate initial and additional service increments. When seven or more continuous treatment minutes are rendered, a 15-minute increment can be billed.»

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Chart: Nursing and School Health Aide Services

The following chart contains the CPT® or HCPCS procedure codes with modifiers, if necessary, to bill for nursing and school health aide services. Service limitations also are included.

Reimbursement rates for these services are in the *Local Educational Agency (LEA) Billing Codes and Reimbursement Rates* section of this manual.

IEP/IFSP Assessments

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
T1001 TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP health assessment	One per lifetime per provider
T1001 TM (IEP)	Initial or triennial IEP health assessment	One every third state fiscal year per provider
T1001 52 TL (IFSP) or T1001 52 TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP health assessment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP health assessment is not billed
T1001 TS TL (IFSP) or T1001 TS TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP health assessment	One every 30 days per provider
«96156 TD TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP nutrition assessment	One per lifetime per provider»
«96156 TD TM (IEP)	Initial IEP nutrition assessment	One per lifetime per provider»
«96156 52 TD TL (IFSP) or 96156 52 TD TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP nutrition assessment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP nutrition assessment is not billed»
«96156 TS TD TL (IFSP) or 96156 TS TD TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP nutrition assessment	One every 30 days per provider»

Assessments (Non-IEP/IFSP)**Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Table**

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
96156 TD	Nutrition assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	4 units per day
96156 TS TD	Nutrition re-assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	4 units per day
99401 CR	COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visit <<(15 minutes)>>	1 unit per day
99401 TD	Health education/anticipatory guidance, each completed 15-minute increment (applies to both initial and re-assessment)	<<1 unit per day>>
<<99402 CR	COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visit (30 minutes)	1 unit per day
99402 TD	Health education/anticipatory guidance, 30 minutes (applies to both initial and re-assessment)	1 unit per day
99403 CR	COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visit (45 minutes)	1 unit per day
99403 TD	Health education/anticipatory guidance, 45 minutes (applies to both initial and re-assessment)	1 unit per day>>

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Table (continued)

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
«99404 CR	COVID-19 vaccine counseling-only visit (60 minutes)	1 unit per day
99404 TD	Health education/anticipatory guidance, 60 minutes (applies to both initial and re-assessment)	1 unit per day»
99173 TD	Vision assessment	One per day
92551 TD	Hearing assessment, per encounter (screening test, pure tone, air only)	One per day
92552 TD	Hearing assessment, per encounter (pure tone audiometry, threshold, air only)	One per day
G9919 AJ AH AG U7 TD HL HM	ACE screening score of 4 or greater, 15-minute increment	4 units per yea
G9920 AJ AH AG U7 TD HL HM	ACE screening score of 0 to 3, 15-minute increment	4 units per year

Treatments (Pursuant to IEP, IFSP or IHSP)**Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Table**

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
T1002 TL (IFSP) or T1002 TM (IEP) or T1002 (IHSP)	Nursing services, RN, 15-minute increment	32 units per day
T1003 TL (IFSP) or T1003 TM (IEP) or T1003 (IHSP)	Nursing services, LVN, 15-minute increment	32 units per day
T1004 TL (IFSP) or T1004 TM (IEP) or T1004 (IHSP)	School health aide treatment services, specialized physical healthcare services by a trained health care aide, 15-minute increment	32 units per day
97535 TD TL (IFSP) or 97535 TD TM (IEP) or 97535 TD (IHSP)	Nursing services, RN ADL services, 15 minute increment	32 units per day
97535 TE TL (IFSP) or 97535 TE TM (IFSP) or 97535 TE (IHSP)	Nursing services, LVN ADL services, 15 minute increment	32 units per day
97535 TL (IFSP) or 97535 TM (IEP) or 97535 (IHSP)	Nursing services, trained health care aide ADL services, 15 minute increment	32 units per day
S9470 TD TL (IFSP) or S9470 TD TM (IEP) or S9470 TD (IHSP)	Nutritional counseling services, 15-minute increment	24 units per day

Legend

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.