
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Respiratory Care

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This section contains information about respiratory therapy 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.

Respiratory Therapy Services

Respiratory therapy practitioner services are medically necessary services rendered within the scope of practice of a respiratory care practitioner under the supervision of a physician. The services must be for the therapy, management, rehabilitation, diagnostic evaluation and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities which affect the pulmonary system and associated aspects of cardiopulmonary and other systems functions. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Direct and indirect pulmonary care services
- Direct and indirect respiratory care procedures, including the administration of pharmacological, diagnostic and therapeutic agents necessary to implement treatment, disease prevention, pulmonary rehabilitation or diagnostic regimen prescribed by a physician
- Observation and monitoring of signs and symptoms, general behavior and physiological responses to respiratory care treatment and diagnostic testing

- Diagnostic and therapeutic services which may include:
 - Administration of medical gases (except general anesthetics), aerosols, humidification and environmental control systems
 - Pharmacologic agents related to respiratory care procedures
 - Mechanical or physiological ventilatory support
 - Bronchopulmonary hygiene
 - Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - Maintenance of natural airways
 - Insertion without cutting tissues and maintenance of artificial airways
 - Diagnostic and testing techniques required for implementation of respiratory care protocols

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 51082.1

Covered Services

Respiratory therapy services include:

- IEP/IFSP respiratory therapy assessments
- Respiratory therapy assessments (non-IEP/IFSP)
- Respiratory therapy treatments

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 Table

Qualified Practitioners	Reimbursable Services
Licensed respiratory care practitioners	IEP/IFSP respiratory therapy assessments Respiratory therapy assessments (non-IEP/IFSP) Respiratory therapy treatments

Prescriptions

Assessments

Respiratory assessments require a written prescription by a physician (*California Business and Professions Code*, Section 3702). In substitution of a written prescription by a physician, a registered credentialed school nurse, teacher or parent may refer the student for an assessment. The referral must be documented in the student's files.

Treatments

All treatment services must be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan. Prescriptions for respiratory therapy treatment services, as required by California *Business and Professions Code*, Section 3702, may come from physicians employed by or contracted with the LEA, or may come from the student's primary care physician. 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 prescription for respiratory therapy treatment services. However, the prescribing physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating practitioner and must review the student's records prior to 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 respiratory therapy services.

Supervision Requirements Table

Qualified Practitioners	Supervision Requirement
Licensed respiratory care practitioners	Requires supervision by a physician to provide respiratory therapy services

Service Limitations: Daily

Respiratory therapy treatment services that are authorized in an IEP, IFSP or IHSP are limited to 24 units per student per day.

Respiratory therapy assessments provided to non-IEP/IFSP students are limited to four units per student per day.

Initial and Additional Treatment Services

One respiratory therapy initial service per provider, per student, per day may be billed. The initial service for respiratory therapy treatment is based on 15 thru 45 continuous minutes; one unit may be billed for each 15-minute increment. A maximum of three units may be billed for the initial service; all units are reimbursable under one initial service maximum allowable rate.

Additional services are billed when more than 45 minutes are spent on the initial service. Additional services are billed in time increments of 15 minutes, and may be rounded up when seven or more continuous minutes are provided. Additional LEA services must be billed in conjunction with an initial service treatment CPT® code. If the student receives more than one treatment session per day (for example, two respiratory therapy treatment sessions at different times during the day), the total treatment time for the second session must be billed as additional treatment services.

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Chart: Respiratory Care Services

The following chart contains the CPT procedure codes with modifiers, if necessary, to bill for respiratory therapy services. Service limitations are also 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: Respiratory Therapy Services Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
94618 TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP respiratory assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One per lifetime per provider
94618 TM (IEP)	Initial or triennial IEP respiratory assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every third state fiscal year per provider
94618 52 TL (IFSP) or 94618 52 TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP respiratory assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP respiratory assessment is not billed
94618 TS TL (IFSP) or 94618 TS TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP respiratory assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every 30 days per provider

Non-IEP/IFSP Assessments

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Respiratory Services Table (Non-IEP/IFSP)

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
94618	Respiratory assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	Four units per day

Treatments (Pursuant to IEP, IFSP or IHSP)

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Respiratory Therapy Treatments Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
G0237 TL (IFSP) or G0237 TM (IEP) or G0237 (IHSP)	Respiratory therapy service, 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.