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# Local Educational Agency (LEA) Rendering Practitioner Qualifications

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This section outlines the qualifications for practitioners employed by LEAs who may render services under the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

## **Qualified LEA Rendering Practitioners**

The following is a list of specific health professionals who are qualified rendering practitioners under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

- Licensed registered nurse, including registered credentialed school nurse and certified public health nurse \*
- Certified nurse practitioner \*
- Licensed vocational nurse \*
- Trained health care aide
- «Licensed physician
- Licensed physician assistant»
- Licensed optometrist
- Licensed clinical social worker \*
- Credentialed school social worker \*
- «Registered associate clinical social worker \*»
- Licensed psychologist \*
- Licensed educational psychologist \*

## Qualified LEA Rendering Practitioners (continued)

- Credentialed school psychologist \*
- Licensed marriage and family therapist \*
- «Associate marriage and family therapist \*»
- Credentialed school counselor \*
- Licensed physical therapist
- «Licensed physical therapist assistant
- Licensed occupational therapist
- Licensed occupational therapy assistant»
- Licensed speech-language pathologist
- «Credentialed speech-language pathologist
- Speech-language pathology assistant»
- Licensed audiologist
- «Credentialed audiologist»
- Registered school audiometrist
- «Orientation and mobility specialist
- Registered dietician
- Licensed respiratory care practitioner»
- Program specialist \*

### Documenting Practitioner Qualifications

The LEA provider must maintain documented evidence of each rendering practitioner's license, certification, registration or credential to practice in California. (Applies to all except trained health care aide practitioners.)

## **Suspended Medi-Cal Providers Excluded**

«Suspended Medi-Cal providers may not render LEA services. For information about suspended providers, refer to the [Provider Suspended and Ineligible List \(S&I List\)](#).»

## **Rendering Practitioner Qualifications**

Rendering practitioner qualifications are defined in the *California Code of Regulations (CCR)*, the *California Education Code*, the *Business and Professions Code*, the *Welfare and Institutions Code*, and the *Health and Safety Code*.

Specific qualifications and service descriptions for contracted licensed practitioners employed by non-public schools and agencies are listed in CCR, Title 5, Sections 3065 and 3029 and *Education Code*, Section 49402. These references distinguish the qualifications between employees of LEAs and contracted practitioners.

Information about practitioner credentials issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is available in *The Administrator's Assignment Manual*, available at [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov).

## Registered Credentialed School Nurses

Registered credentialed school nurses must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Qualified practitioners must have a school nurse services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Effective January 1, 1981, these nurses also must show proof they have child abuse and neglect detection training. This requirement may be fulfilled through continuing education.

«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.»

«*Business and Professions Code*, Section 2701 and *Education Code*, Sections 44267.5, 49422(a), 49426 and 44877.»

## Licensed Registered Nurses

Registered nurses (RNs) must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

«*California Code of Regulations*, Title 22, Section 51067.»

## Certified Public Health Nurses

Certified public health nurses must be licensed and certified as public health nurses by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

«*California Code of Regulations*, Title 16, Section 1491.»

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## Certified Nurse Practitioners

Certified nurse practitioners must be licensed and certified to practice as nurse practitioners (NPs), whose practices are predominantly that of primary care, by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

«Under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, nurse practitioners may sign authorization forms required by the department for covered benefits and services that are consistent with applicable state and federal law and subject to the following:

- Authority has been delegated by the supervising physician to provide the covered benefit or service pursuant to their scope of practice.
- The supervising physician and NP are both enrolled as Medi-Cal providers pursuant to Article 1.3 (commencing with Section 14043) of Chapter 7, Part 3 of Division 9 of the *Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I Code)*.

*California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 51170.3.»*

## Licensed Vocational Nurses

Licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. LVNs providing specialized physical health care must practice under the direction of a licensed physician, registered credentialed school nurse or certified public health nurse as specified in *Education Code, Section 49423.5*.

*Business and Professions Code, Section 2841.*

## Trained Health Care Aides

«Trained health care aides are unlicensed practitioners that may render Activities of Daily Living (ADL) assistance services and specialized physical healthcare services, if supervised by a licensed physician, a registered credentialed school nurse or a certified public health nurse. Trained health care aides rendering specialized physical health care services must be trained in the administration of such services.»

Specialized physical health care services include, but are not limited to, gastric tube feeding, suctioning, oxygen administration, catheterization and nebulizer treatments.

«*California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 3051.12; Education Code, Sections 56363 and 49423.5(d); Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 34, Section 300.107.»*

## «Licensed Physicians»

Physicians must be licensed to practice by the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California. Physicians employed on a half-time or greater than half-time basis must have a health services credential or a valid credential issued prior to November 23, 1970.

«**Note:** California *Business and Professions Code* references a physician as a person holding a physician and surgeon's certificate issued by the Medical Board of California or by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California. For LEA Program purposes, the title "physician and surgeon" and "physician" are synonymous and may be used interchangeably.»

*Education Code*, Section 44873.

## «Licensed Physician Assistants

Physician assistants must be licensed to practice by the California Physician Assistant Board. Physician assistants must practice under a valid written practice agreement, working under the supervision of a licensed physician. Effective January 1, 2020, Senate Bill 697 repealed the requirement for a "delegation of services agreement" and replaced it with a "practice agreement" requirement. Physician assistants operating under a delegation of services agreement prior to January 1, 2020, are authorized to perform LEA services if they worked under the supervision of a licensed physician.

Under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program, Physician Assistants may sign authorization forms required by the department for covered benefits and services that are consistent with applicable state and federal law and subject to the following:

- Authority has been delegated by the supervising physician to provide the covered benefit or service pursuant to their scope of practice.
- The supervising physician and physician assistant are both enrolled as Medi-Cal providers pursuant to Article 1.3 (commencing with Section 14043) of Chapter 7, Part 3 of Division 9 of the *Welfare and Institutions Code*.

*Business and Professions Code*, Section 3502, 3502.3; *California Code of Regulations*, Title 16, Section 1399.540.»

## **Licensed Optometrists**

Optometrists must be licensed by the California Board of Optometry and must have a services credential with a specialization in health or a valid credential issued prior to November 23, 1970.

«*Business and Professions Code*, Section 3041(a) and *Education Code*, Section 44878.»»

## **Licensed Clinical Social Workers**

Licensed clinical social workers must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. «Clinical social workers must have a valid pupil personnel services (PPS) credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), with the appropriate authorization for those services, or be appropriately supervised by a PPS-credential holder.»»

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 4990.15 and 4996 and *Education Code*, Sections 44874 and 49422(a).

Contracted licensed clinical social workers employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences or possess a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school social work.

«*California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, Section 3065.»»

## **Credentialed School Social Workers**

Credentialed school social workers must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school social work or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Credentialed school social workers may provide psychosocial treatment services only to the extent authorized under *Business and Professions Code*, Sections 4996, 4996.9, 4996.14 and 4996.15 and *Education Code*, Section 44874, to Medi-Cal eligible students.

*Education Code*, Section 49422(a).

## **Registered Associate Clinical Social Workers**

Associate clinical social workers must be registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Registered associate clinical social workers may provide psychology and counseling services under the supervision of a California licensed clinical social worker or a licensed mental health professional, including a licensed clinical psychologist, marriage and family therapist, licensed professional clinical counselor or licensed physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. The supervisor must be licensed in California or in any other state for a total of at least two years out of the last five years immediately preceding supervision.

*California Code of Regulations*, Title 16, Section 1870 and *Business and Professions Code*, Section 4996.

## **Licensed Psychologists**

Licensed psychologists must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Psychology. These practitioners must have a valid pupil personnel services (PPS) credential issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), with the appropriate authorization for those services, or be appropriately supervised by a PPS-credential holder.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2902 and 2903 and *Education Code*, Sections 44874, 49422 and 49424.



## Licensed Educational Psychologists

Licensed educational psychologists must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. These practitioners must have a pupil personnel services (PPS) credential issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), with the appropriate authorization for those services, or be appropriately supervised by a PPS-credential holder.

«*Business and Professions Code*, 4989.10 et. seq.»

## Credentialed School Psychologists

Credentialed school psychologists must have a pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school psychology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Credentialed school psychologists may provide psychological treatment services only to the extent authorized under *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2910 and *Education Code*, Sections 49422 and 49424, to Medi-Cal eligible students.

*Education Code*, Section 49422.

«Due to the temporary unavailability of a credentialed school psychologist, a school district or county office may contract with qualified personnel to perform individually administered tests of intellectual or emotional functioning including necessary reports pursuant to *Education Code*, section 56327.

*California Code of Regulations, Title 5*, section 3029.»

## **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists**

Licensed marriage and family therapists must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. «These practitioners must have a pupil personnel services credential issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), with the appropriate authorization for those services, or be appropriately supervised by a PPS-credential holder.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 4980 and 4980.03 and *Education Code*, Section 49422.»

Contracted licensed marriage and family therapists employed by non-public schools and agencies must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences or possess a pupil personnel services credential.

«*California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 3065.*»

## **«Associate Marriage and Family Therapists**

Associate marriage and family therapists must be registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. These practitioners may provide psychology and counseling services under the supervision of a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Licensed Psychologist, or a Licensed Physician and Surgeon certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. The supervisor must be licensed in California or in any other state for a total of at least two years out of the last five years immediately preceding any supervision.

*California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1833.1 and Business and Professions Code, Section 4980.03.*»

## **Credentialed School Counselors**

Credentialed school counselors must have a valid pupil personnel services credential with a specialization in school counseling or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990.

«*Education Code*, Sections 49422 and 49600.»

## **Licensed Physical Therapists**

Licensed physical therapists must be licensed to practice by the California Physical Therapy Board. Physical therapists must be graduates of a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2601, 2632 and 2651.

## **«Licensed Physical Therapist Assistants**

Physical therapist assistants must be licensed to practice by the California Physical Therapy Board. Physical therapist assistants must provide services under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

*Business and Professions Code*, Section 2601(c).»

### **«Licensed Occupational Therapists**

Licensed occupational therapists must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.» Occupational therapists must be graduates of an educational program for occupational therapists that is accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

«*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2570, et seq.»

### **«Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants**

Occupational therapy assistants must be licensed to practice by the California Board of Occupational Therapy. Occupational therapy assistants must provide services under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2570, 2570.2 , et seq.»

## **Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists**

Licensed speech-language pathologists must be licensed to practice by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2530.2(a) and 2532 and *Education Code*, Section 44831.

### **«Credentialed Speech-Language Pathologists»**

Speech-language pathologists must have a valid preliminary services credential in speech-language pathology; professional clear services credential in speech-language pathology; clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in language, speech and hearing or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990.

Speech-language pathologists with a valid credential may provide assessment and treatment services related to speech, voice, language or swallowing disorders. Services provided by a speech-language pathologist with a clinical or rehabilitative services credential or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990 must be provided under the direction of a licensed speech-language pathologist or a speech-language pathologist with a valid professional clear services credential in speech-language pathology, only to the extent authorized under *Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2530.2, 2530.5 and 2532 and *Education Code*, Sections 44225 and 44268, to Medi-Cal eligible students.

«*Education Code*, Section 44265.3 and *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, Section 80048.9.»

## «Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

Speech-language pathology assistants must register with the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispenser Board. These practitioners require supervision by a licensed speech-language pathologist or a credentialed speech-language pathologist that holds a valid professional clear services credential, or a life clinical or rehabilitative services credential in language, speech and hearing issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

*Business and Professions Code*, Section 2530.2 and *California Code of Regulations*, Title 16, Section 1399.170.15.»

## Licensed Audiologists

Licensed audiologists must be licensed to practice by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board. These practitioners must have a clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in audiology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990.

«*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2530.2(a) and 2532 and *Education Code*, Section 49422.»

### «**Credentialed Audiologists**»

Audiologists must have a clinical or rehabilitative services credential with an authorization in audiology or a valid credential issued prior to the operative date of Section 25 of Chapter 557 of the Statutes of 1990. Audiologists with a valid credential may provide audiological and communication disorders assessments and treatment services. These services must be provided under the direction of licensed audiologists only to the extent authorized under *Business and Professions Code*, Section 2530.2 and 2530.5 and 2532 and *Education Code*, Sections 44225 and 44268, to Medi-Cal eligible students.

*Education Code*, Section 49422(a).

### **Registered School Audiometrists**

School audiometrists must have a valid certificate of registration issued by the Department of Health Care Services.

*Education Code*, Section 44879 and *Health and Safety Code*, Section 1685.

### «**Orientation and Mobility Specialists**»

Orientation and mobility specialists must be certified by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) and possess a Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential: Orientation and Mobility.

*Education Code*, Section 80048.9.1.

### **Registered Dieticians**

Dieticians must be registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

*Business and Professions Code*, Sections 2585 and 2586.»

## «Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioners

Respiratory care practitioners must be licensed by the Respiratory Care Board of California. Licensed respiratory care practitioners must provide services under the direction of a licensed physician.

*Business and Professions Code, Sections 3702, 3703 and 3730.»*

## Program Specialists

Program specialists must have a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education. These practitioners must also complete a post baccalaureate professional preparation program in accordance with requirements to qualify for a valid special education credential, clinical or rehabilitative services credential, health services credential or a school psychologist authorization.

«Program Specialists are only authorized to bill for Targeted Case Management Services.

*Education Code, Sections 44266, 44267, 44268 and 56368 and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 80048.2.»*



## **Legend**

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

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Description</b>
<<	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.
*	LEA Targeted Case Management (TCM) services may be rendered by LEA practitioners designated by an asterisk above. Practitioners who meet the qualifications of a program specialist as described in this section, may also provide TCM services. Additional information about billing TCM is located in the <i>Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Targeted Case Management</i> section in this manual.