



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: January 08, 2013 PPL No. 13-001
TO: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)
SUBJECT: LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program - Revision to Medical Transportation Outlined in Assembly Bill 2608

This Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) notifies LEAs participating in the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program that specific provisions set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22 Sections 51323(a)(2)(A), 51323(a)(3)(B), 51231.1(f), and 51231.2(e), shall not apply to medical transportation eligible to be billed under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2608, approved by the Governor on September 29, 2012, excludes CCR, Title 22 Sections 51323(a)(2)(A), 51323(a)(3)(B), 51231.1(f), and 51231.2(e); and has been incorporated in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code 14115.8. LEA medical transportation services must still be provided in a litter van or wheelchair van in order to be reimbursable under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program; however, the following changes with regard to litter van or wheelchair van transportation will be effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013:

Litter Van Transportation

- LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van are no longer required to be transported in a prone or supine position, because they are incapable of sitting for the period of time needed to transport. (*Section 51323(a)(2)(A)*)
- LEA beneficiaries transported in a litter van and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a gurney are no longer required to be secured to a gurney by restraining belts while being loaded, unloaded and transported. (*Section 51231.1(f)*)

Wheelchair Van Transportation

- LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van are no longer required to be transported in a wheelchair or assisted to and from residence, vehicle and place of treatment because of a disabling physical or mental limitation. (*Section 51323(a)(3)(B)*)

- LEA beneficiaries transported in a wheelchair van and whose medical or physical condition does not require the use of a wheelchair are no longer required to be secured to wheelchairs while being loaded, unloaded or transported. (*Section 51231.2(e)*)

These state regulatory requirements are more restrictive than federal transportation requirements and impose limits on school districts from receiving federal funds for transportation services. Excluding these provisions allows LEAs to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical transportation services to students with disabilities for the purpose of obtaining needed medical care.

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, LEAs may begin billing for LEA medical transportation services provided in a litter van or wheelchair van for Medi-Cal eligible students who are not confined to a wheelchair or in a prone or supine position. All other medical transportation provisions outlined in CCR, Title 22 Sections 51360 and 51491 still apply.

Accordingly, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will update the LEA Provider Manual effective January 2013 to reflect these changes. DHCS will work to amend language specific to LEA medical transportation in the CCR no later than January 1, 2018.

If you have any questions concerning this PPL please contact Mr. Rick Record, Administrative Support/LEA Program Unit Chief, by phone at (916) 552-9065 or by email at Rick.Record@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY GERI BAUCOM

Geri Baucom, Chief
Administrative Claiming, Local and School Services Branch