

**Subject:** DHCS: LEA BOP - Educationally Related Mental Health Service Policy Reminder  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 3:28:17 PM Mountain Daylight Time  
**From:** LEA Providers on behalf of LEA (MB)@DHCS  
**To:** DHCSLEA@MAILLIST.DHS.CA.GOV

**August 24, 2022**

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*Please do not reply to this e-mail.*

To All Local Educational Agencies Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) Providers:

The purpose of this e-blast is to remind LEA BOP Providers that Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS)/Educationally Related Intensive Counseling Services (ERICs) are not covered services and are not eligible for billing under the LEA BOP.

The LEA BOP is a federally funded reimbursement program for the provision of certain medically necessary direct health care services to Medi-Cal eligible students. In contrast, ERMHS/ERICs do not require medical necessity because, by definition, they are educationally focused. Additionally, ERMHS/ERICs have a different funding source that is separate from the Medi-Cal reimbursement that LEAs receive through the LEA BOP. The California Department of Education (CDE) distributes ERMHS/ERICs funding directly to Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA)s, and in some cases, redistributed to LEAs for the provision of these educationally related services. Although some of the services resulting from an ERMHS assessment are services also covered by LEA BOP, such as individual or group counseling services, LEAs may not bill these services to the LEA BOP because of the potential for duplicate payment across funding streams. Psychology and counseling services are reimbursable under the LEA BOP only if these services are medically necessary, included on a care plan and did not result from an ERMHS/ERICs assessment.

LEAs may not bill ERMHS, including psychology/counseling services provided under ERMHS, to the LEA BOP. In addition, LEA Time Survey Participant (TSP) lists for Cost Pool 1 must not include practitioners designated as ERMHS/ERICs staff. Please make sure these participants are not present on the TSP list.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the LEA BOP at [LEA@DHCS.CA.GOV](mailto:LEA@DHCS.CA.GOV).

For information regarding the LEA BOP, visit the [LEA BOP website](#).

To subscribe/unsubscribe, go to the [e-mail subscription web page](#).

Sincerely,

**LEA BOP Staff**

[LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program](#) | [Department of Health Care Services](#)