Frequently Asked Questions & Guidelines

Who do these Medi-Cal guidelines apply to?

These guidelines apply to speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) serving in California school settings under the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP). These guidelines are currently in effect and **immediate action is required**.

Why is individual practitioner enrollment mandatory?

School districts cannot claim Medi-Cal reimbursement for services rendered by eligible practitioners unless those individual practitioners meet the new provider enrollment requirements. Individual enrollment is now mandatory for practitioners with an available pathway (e.g., licensed SLPs and credentialed SLPs).

Where and how do practitioners submit their enrollment application?

Applications must be submitted online through the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) PAVE Portal, preferably using the Ordering, Referring, or Prescribing (ORP) pathway.

What impacts and contractual considerations should practitioners keep in mind?

Key impacts include workload and duty adjustments, protected time for logging and administrative tasks, usage of Type 1 NPIs, and contractual protections regarding credentialing mandates. You can consult your local union representative or bargaining team (CTA/CFT affiliates), local district Medi-Cal billing coordinators, or SELPA administrators regarding these impacts.

What steps should Licensed SLPs or Credential Holders take depending on district billing?

If your district bills Medi-Cal for your services, obtain a Type 1 NPI and submit an individual enrollment application via the DHCS PAVE Portal (ORP pathway recommended). If your district does not bill for your services or you were hired strictly under a credential without Medi-Cal billing, no action is required unless your district opts into billing later.

What are the requirements for SLPAs, RPE Candidates, or Clinical/Rehabilitative Credential Holders?

No individual PAVE enrollment pathway currently exists for these roles. Continue rendering services under the existing LEA BOP process.

How do effective dates work for the ORP and Non-ORP pathways?

For the ORP Pathway (Retroactive), submitting through **June 30, 2027** provides up to a 1-year retroactive effective date to cover services rendered back to July 1, 2026. For Non-ORP Pathways (Not Retroactive), the effective date is set as the application submission date, so submit as soon as possible to avoid coverage gaps in billable services.