Local Educational Agency (LEA) Service: Orientation and Mobility

This section contains information about orientation and mobility 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.

Orientation and Mobility

Orientation and Mobility services are services provided to blind, low vision or visually impaired students by qualified personnel to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home and community and includes teaching students the following, as appropriate:

- Spatial and environmental concepts and use of information received by the senses (such as sound, temperature and vibrations) to establish, maintain or regain orientation and line of travel (for example, using sound at a traffic light to cross the street);

- To use the long cane, as appropriate, to supplement visual travel skills or as a tool for safely negotiating the environment for students with no available travel vision;

- To understand and use remaining vision and distance low vision aids, as appropriate; and

- Other concepts, techniques and tools as determined appropriate.

Covered Services

Orientation and mobility services include:

- Orientation and mobility assessments
- Orientation and mobility 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
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)	Orientation and mobility assessments Orientation and mobility treatments

Recommendations

Assessments

Orientation and mobility assessments must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of his or her practice under state law (*Code of Federal Regulations,* Title 42, Section 440.130[d]). The recommendation must be documented in the student's files. In substitution of a recommendation, 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 or other care plan. Recommendations for orientation and mobility treatment services, as required by *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 42, Section 440.130[d], may come from physicians or other licensed practitioners of the healing arts within the scope of his or her practice.

If the recommendation is obtained from a licensed physician, the physician may be employed by or contracted with the LEA, or may come from the student's primary care physician. A recommending physician does not need to be the student's primary care physician, and does not need to personally evaluate the student to issue a recommendation for orientation and mobility treatment services. However, the recommending physician must have a working relationship with the LEA and treating practitioner, and must review the student's records prior to recommending 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 recommendation, which must be maintained in the student's file, must be updated annually and is valid for one year from the date of the recommendation. Recommendations may be established and documented in the student's IEP, IFSP, IHSP or other care plan.

Supervision Requirements

Orientation and mobility specialists do not require supervision to provide orientation and mobility services.

Service Limitations: Daily

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

Orientation and mobility assessment services provided to non-IEP/IFSP students are limited to four units, per student, per day.

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations Chart: Orientation and Mobility Services

The following chart contains the CPT® procedure codes with modifiers, if necessary, to bill for orientation and mobility 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: Orientation and Mobility Services Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
T1023 TL (IFSP)	Initial IFSP orientation and mobility assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One per lifetime per provider
T1023 TM (IEP)	Initial or triennial IEP orientation and mobility assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every third state fiscal year per provider
T1023 52 TL (IFSP) or T1023 52 TM (IEP)	Annual IEP/IFSP orientation and mobility assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every state fiscal year per provider when an initial or triennial IEP/IFSP orientation and mobility assessment is not billed
T1023 TS TL (IFSP) or T1023 TS TM (IEP)	Amended IEP/IFSP orientation and mobility assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	One every 30 days per provider

Assessments (Non-IEP/IFSP)

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Orientation and Mobility Assessment Non-IEP/IFSP Service Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
T1023	Orientation and mobility assessment, each completed 15-minute increment	4 units per day

Treatments (Pursuant to IEP, IFSP or IHSP)

Procedure Codes/Service Limitations: Orientation and Mobility Treatments Table

Procedure Code/Modifier	LEA Program Usage	LEA Limitations (Per Student)
97533 TL (IFSP) or 97533 TM (IEP) or 97533 (IHSP)	Orientation and mobility treatment,15-minute increment	24 units per day

<u>Legend</u>

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.