

PROTOCOLS FOR LACTATION CONSULTANTS/EDUCATORS

One of the benefits offered to eligible women under the SBHI, SLOHI, HF, HK, and PP2 programs is the services of an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). Lactation services are NOT a benefit of IHSS.

Lactation services are available for mothers needing information on breastfeeding. The focus of these lactation consultations is to assess the woman's ability to breastfeed and resolve issues they may have surrounding breastfeeding. CenCal Health has authorized IBCLCs to provide up to a two-hour consultation in the office, home or hospital without prior authorization.

Eligibility

Lactation Consultants must confirm that the member presenting in his/her office is eligible for services under CenCal Health and is assigned to the referring PCP for the month in which he/she is to render services. This can be accomplished by verifying eligibility through one of CenCal Health's systems. Information regarding eligibility is in the Member Services Section of this Provider Manual.

In the event the member is not eligible under the program(s) administered by CenCal Health, payment for any services provided to the member will not be the responsibility of CenCal Health.

Authorizations

Lactation Consultants are required to obtain a **Treatment Authorization Request (TAR)** to be approved by CenCal Health **if the services are beyond the limitations set for the benefit**. The benefit is limited to one visit or multiple visits in the office, hospital or home and cannot exceed a total of two hours. Additional consultations, billed in half hour increments, must be authorized by CenCal Health's Health Services Department prior to the provider rendering services to the member.

Billing for Covered Services

Lactation Consultants bill CenCal Health for lactation education services he or she has provided to the eligible member. In the event the member has other coverage, or third-party liability is involved, the Lactation Consultant shall follow the terms and conditions of his/her Service Agreement with CenCal Health, or as indicated in "Other Health Coverage" in the Claims Section of this Provider Manual.

Co-payments

No co-payments for Lactation Education are required for any program, i.e., SBHI, SLOHI, HF, HK, and PP2.

Reimbursement for Lactation Services

Claims submitted to CenCal Health for eligible members for outpatient lactation education, under the provider's tax identification number (TIN) or the National Provider Identifier (NPI) if after May 23, 2007, will be reimbursed as follows:

Code	Description	Type	Unit	Frequency (maximum)	Referral Auth. Form	Reimbursement
S944 3	Lactation Consultation	Individual	30 minutes	4 sessions	Waived	\$32.50

Lactation Consultants bill CenCal Health on a CMS (HCFA) 1500 form, using the special billing code S9443, which is for a lactation consultation (face to face visit). Lactation educators must indicate on the claim form the correct ICD-9 Diagnosis Code. Additionally, lactation educators may bill for miscellaneous medical supplies, i.e. nipple shields, creams, pump kits, and/or manual pumps, for lactation management and support, using appropriate CPT or HCPCS codes and ICD-9 code V24.1 or other appropriate code.