# Schedule E

**Application of Distance Standards and Alternative Standards:**

**Specialist Physician Types**

## Application of Distance Standards:

The Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) will use the steps below to calculate the distance standards for Specialist Physician Types:

1. Identify the counties and ZIP Codes (CountyZIPs) in the network service area.
2. Find the population points for each applicable County/ZIP Code combination.
3. Measure each population point against the distance standard for the specialist physician type and county type.
4. Derive the percentage of population counts that fall within the standard by summing the population counts for each population point that passes in the county, versus the total population count for the county.

Compliance is measured according to the methodology document entitled “Geographic Access Measurement Methodology,” as incorporated in Rule 1300.67.2(c)(4).

**Example 1: Application of Distance Standard to Dermatology in a Metro County**

Table 1 below depicts the Dermatology distance standard, applied to a fictional representation of a network operating in Butte County. For the purposes of this example, Butte County has been simplified to 27 population points across 13 ZIP Codes.[[1]](#footnote-2) The total population count for this fictional representation of the county is 13,140.

In this fictional network, 9 out of the 13 population points fall within the 20-mile driving distance standard for Dermatology for a Metro County. The total population count for the 9 population points within this county is 11,110, leading to 85% of the county population falling within the 20-mile driving distance standard.

**Outcome of Example 1, Table 1**: This fictional network has not met compliance under the applicable distance standard. To meet compliance, at least 90% of the county population, as represented by population points, must be within the distance standard.

**Table 1: Application of the Distance Standard for Dermatology**

**Fictional Network in a Metro County**

**(Butte County)**

| **Network Service Area ZIP Code (Butte County** | **Population Point (Latitude\_Longitude)** | **Population Count** | **Total County Pop. Count**\* | **Driving Distance to Nearest Counseling MHP** | **Total Pop. Counts within 20-Mile Standard for Metro Counties** | **% Pop. Count within Mileage Standard** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 95927 | 39.73532**\_**-121.8335 | 3471 | 13,140 | 10 | 11,100 | (11,100/ 13,140 = 0.85) 85% |
| 95926 | 39.74145**\_**-121.8713 | 1911 | 11 |
| 95926 | 39.75034**\_**-121.8323 | 2061 | 11 |
| 95928 | 39.72055**\_**-121.8375 | 3572 | 12 |
| 95942 | 39.82332**\_**-121.7106 | 3 | 14 |
| 95973 | 39.80894**\_**-121.9132 | 63 | 14 |
| 95942 | 39.90907**\_**-121.6461 | 8 | 18 |
| 95954 | 39.8977**\_**-121.6388 | 9 | 20 |
| 95938 | 39.64189**\_**-121.8335 | 12 | 20 |
| 95928 | 39.6419**\_**-121.8365 | 12 | 21 | 0 |
| 95965 | 39.58095**\_**-121.5059 | 13 | 22 |
| 95966 | 39.40205**\_**-121.4911 | 112 | 23 |
| 95965 | 39.53753**\_**-121.7335 | 3 | 25 |
| 95901 | 39.37478**\_**-121.4224 | 16 | 29 |
| 95969 | 39.77071**\_**-121.5701 | 57 | 29 |
| 95917 | 39.40912**\_**-121.6346 | 210 | 29 |
| 95942 | 40.04244**\_**-121.6026 | 625 | 29 |
| 95969 | 39.76632**\_**-121.578 | 851 | 29 |
| 95948 | 39.37017**\_**-121.7324 | 10 | 32 |
| 95948 | 39.39165**\_**-121.7819 | 28 | 33 |
| 95965 | 39.69765**\_**-121.5515 | 5 | 35 |
| 95965 | 39.72467**\_**-121.5387 | 19 | 35 |
| 95954 | 39.97182**\_**-121.5346 | 8 | 38 |
| 95948 | 39.34769**\_**-121.8008 | 10 | 38 |
| 95966 | 39.55045**\_**-121.3904 | 15 | 39 |
| 95965 | 39.72005**\_**-121.4908 | 29 | 39 |
| 95965 | 39.93239**\_**-121.4488 | 7 | 50 |

\* This is a fictional representation of the population count in the county.

## Application of Alternative Distance Standard for Low-Density ZIP Codes

When a health care service plan (plan)’s network is not able to meet the distance standard for a specialist physician in a Large Metro or Metro County type, the DMHC will review the county using the additional steps below to calculate compliance based on an alternative distance standard for low-density ZIP Codes within the county, as defined:

1. When the percentage of population counts that fall within the identified distance standard is less than 90% for the Large Metro or Metro County, identify the low-density ZIP Codes for the county, set forth in the DMHC’s *California ZIP Code and County Combinations and Population Points* document published annually on the DMHC’s web portal and issued pursuant to Rule 1300.67.2.2(b)(11).
2. Measure all normal-density ZIP Codes in the county against the distance standard for the county type; and measure all low-density ZIP codes against the alternative distance standard for the county type.
3. Derive the percent of population count that falls within the standard by separately calculating the normal-density and low-density ZIP Codes, as follows:

* For the normal-density ZIP Codes, sum the population counts for each population point that meets the distance standard in the county for that ZIP Code type, versus the total population count for the county for that ZIP Code type.
* For the low-density ZIP Codes, sum the population counts for each population point that meets the alternative standard in the county, versus the total population for the county for that ZIP Code type.

1. If at least 90 percent of the county population in normal-density ZIP Codes is within the established county type distance standard **and** at least 90 percent of the county population in low-density ZIP Codes is within the low-density alternative standard, the county will meet the alternative distance standard for the specialist physician type.
2. A county will not meet the alternative distance standard if either less than 90 percent of the county population in low-density ZIP Codes is within the alternative distance standard, **or** less than 90 percent of the county population in normal-density ZIP Codes is within the established county type distance standard.

**Example 2: Application of the Alternative Distance Standard for Low-Density ZIP Codes**

Table 2 below depicts the alternative distance standard, as applied to a fictional representation of a network in Butte County. As with the previous example (Example 1 depicted in Table 1), for the purposes of this example Butte County has been simplified to 27 population points across 13 ZIP Codes. ZIP Codes have been split into normal density and low-density ZIP Codes, as defined.

In this fictional network, the normal density ZIP Codes and low-density ZIP Codes are set forth as follows:

* Normal Density ZIP Codes: Using the 13 ZIP Codes and 27 population points previously depicted in Table 1, there are two normal-density ZIP Codes in the county, and they have a total of three population points, representing a population count of 7,443. All of the population points within these normal-density ZIP Codes fall within the 20-mile distance standard for dermatology within a Metro County. Thus, 100% of the population count in the normal density ZIP Codes meet the standard.
* Low Density ZIP Codes: There are 10 low-density ZIP Codes in the county, and they have a total of 24 population points, representing a population count of 5,697. Of the 24 population points, 19 population points fall within the alternative 35-mile distance standard for Dermatology within a Metro County. The 19 population points have a total population count of 5,628. This represents 99% of the population in the low-density ZIP Codes in the county that meets the alternative mileage standard. The remaining 5 population points represent a population of 69, and have driving distances between 38 and 50 miles.

**Outcome of Example 2, Table 2:**

This fictional network has met compliance for the county under the applicable alternative distance standard for low-density ZIP Codes. In both the normal-density ZIP Codes and the low-density ZIP Codes, the threshold percentage of the population meets the respective distance standard.

**Table 2: Application of the Alternative Distance Standard for Low-Density ZIP Codes to Dermatology**

**Fictional Network (Butte County - Metro County)**

| **ZIP Code** | **ZIP Density Type** | **Population Point**  **(Latitude\_Longitude)** | **Population Count** | **Total County Area Pop. Count**\* | **Distance to Nearest Network Provider** | **Total Pop Counts within Standard (20 Miles for Normal-Density and 35 Miles for Low-Density)** | **% Pop. Count within Mileage Standard** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 95927 | Normal | 39.73532**\_**-121.8335 | 3471 | 7443 | 10 | 7443 | (7443/7443 = 1) 100% |
| 95926 | Normal | 39.74145**\_**-121.8713 | 1911 | 11 |
| 95926 | Normal | 39.75034**\_**-121.8323 | 2061 | 11 |
| 95928 | Low | 39.72055**\_**-121.8375 | 3572 | 5697 | 12 | 5628 | (5697/ 5628 = 0.987) 99% |
| 95942 | Low | 39.82332**\_**-121.7106 | 3 | 14 |
| 95973 | Low | 39.80894**\_**-121.9132 | 63 | 14 |
| 95942 | Low | 39.90907**\_**-121.6461 | 8 | 18 |
| 95954 | Low | 39.8977**\_**-121.6388 | 9 | 20 |
| 95938 | Low | 39.64189**\_**-121.8335 | 12 | 20 |
| 95928 | Low | 39.6419**\_**-121.8365 | 12 | 21 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.58095**\_**-121.5059 | 13 | 22 |
| 95966 | Low | 39.40205**\_**-121.4911 | 112 | 23 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.53753**\_**-121.7335 | 3 | 25 |
| 95901 | Low | 39.37478**\_**-121.4224 | 16 | 29 |
| 95969 | Low | 39.77071**\_**-121.5701 | 57 | 29 |
| 95917 | Low | 39.40912**\_**-121.6346 | 210 | 29 |
| 95942 | Low | 40.04244**\_**-121.6026 | 625 | 29 |
| 95969 | Low | 39.76632**\_**-121.578 | 851 | 29 |
| 95948 | Low | 39.37017**\_**-121.7324 | 10 | 32 |
| 95948 | Low | 39.39165**\_**-121.7819 | 28 | 33 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.69765**\_**-121.5515 | 5 | 35 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.72467**\_**-121.5387 | 19 | 35 |
| 95954 | Low | 39.97182**\_**-121.5346 | 8 | 38 | 0 |
| 95948 | Low | 39.34769**\_**-121.8008 | 10 | 38 |
| 95966 | Low | 39.55045**\_**-121.3904 | 15 | 39 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.72005**\_**-121.4908 | 29 | 39 |
| 95965 | Low | 39.93239**\_**-121.4488 | 7 | 50 |

\* This is a fictional representation of the population count in the county.

## Application of Alternative County Standard for Low Supply Counties

The DMHC may apply the alternative county distance standard for low supply counties when the area in and around a county is determined as a low-supply area for the specialist physician type. The county will be determined as a low-supply area for a provider type and the plan’s network will be subject to an alternative review for a county if there are no available providers of the identified specialist physician type within the mileage standard. The DMHC will identify whether there are no available providers of the specialist type within the mileage standard for a particular county by reviewing the most recent reported annual network data, and published data sources, including the Medical Board of California and the Podiatric Medical Board of California.

**List of Low Supply Counties and Specialties for Reporting Year (RY) 2025:**

Table 3 below represents the counties and specialty types for which the low supply alternative standard will apply for RY 2025, as set forth in the Specialist Geographic Access Standards and Methodology document.

**Table 3: Specialists and Counties that Qualify for the Alternative County Standard for Low Supply Counties (RY 2025)**

| **County** | **County Type** | **Specialty** | **Mileage Standard** | **Low-Supply County Alternative Mileage Standard** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Del Norte | Rural | Gastroenterology | 55 | 83 |
| Del Norte | Rural | Ophthalmology | 55 | 83 |
| Del Norte | Rural | Psychiatry | 55 | 83 |
| Del Norte | Rural | Endocrinology | 65 | 98 |
| Del Norte | Rural | Rheumatology | 65 | 98 |
| Del Norte | Rural | Urology | 65 | 98 |
| Inyo | CEAC | Oncology | 100 | 150 |
| Inyo | CEAC | Hematology | 125 | 188 |
| Inyo | CEAC | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | 125 | 188 |
| Lake | Micro | Allergy/Immunology | 65 | 98 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Cardiovascular Disease | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Dermatology | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Gastroenterology | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Neurology | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Pulmonology | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Oncology | 100 | 150 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Allergy/Immunology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Endocrinology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Otolaryngology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Radiation Oncology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Rheumatology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Urology | 125 | 188 |
| Modoc | CEAC | Hematology | 125 | 188 |
| Mono | CEAC | Gastroenterology | 100 | 150 |
| Mono | CEAC | Oncology | 100 | 150 |
| Mono | CEAC | Hematology | 125 | 188 |
| Mono | CEAC | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | 125 | 188 |
| Siskiyou | CEAC | Gastroenterology | 100 | 150 |

1. Butte County had 1,330 population points and 26 ZIP Codes in RY 2024. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)