



Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Health Plan Advisory 16-9
April 19, 2016

Home Health Services: Transition to 15-Minute Units for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Services

This advisory is to provide notification of a change in policy for skilled nursing visits covered in the Home Health Program. Historically, a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse (LPN) billed skilled nursing services for Medicaid home health providers as one hour per unit increments. National guidelines require these services to be billed in 15-minute per unit increments. Therefore, the Department is enacting the following change.

Effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2016, Medicaid claims processing logic will be updated to reflect the intent of Medicaid policy and national guidelines related to skilled nursing visits (HH, 15 min for RN and LPN) reimbursed under the Home Health Program.

Home Health providers will be required to bill Medicaid for skilled nursing visits in 15-minute units. Provider documentation for the visit must reflect the arrival time and departure time of the nurse in order to substantiate the provider's claim for the number of 15-minute units billed. This documentation must be retained and made available for review by the provider according to Medicaid standards for provider participation.

The above changes were communicated to providers via a remittance advice message beginning on March 8, 2016.

Questions regarding this Health Plan Advisory should be directed to Stephanie W. Young at stephanie.w.young@la.gov or (225) 342-1461.