



**Louisiana Department of Health**  
**Health Plan Advisory 17-18**  
**October 6, 2017**

**Changes to Pharmacy Services due to Tropical Storm Nate**

On Oct. 6, 2017, a presidential Pre-Disaster Emergency Declaration was issued by FEMA for Tropical Storm Nate which is expected to make landfall along the gulf coast on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017. As a result of the presidential emergency declaration, the required emergency measures should be taken for pharmacy services in the following parishes: **Assumption, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne and Vermillion**, and any additional parishes that may be added to the presidential declaration in future.

Effective Oct. 7, 2017, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is directing all managed care organizations (MCO) to lift certain drug edits for Medicaid recipients who live in one of the affected parishes included in the emergency declaration.

LDH is directing MCOs to lift the following edits. The edits should be changed from a denial to educational, or bypass within 24 hours of this notice for the affected areas.

- Early refills on non-controlled medications – should be bypassed or allow a pharmacist override, except for controlled and/or specialty drugs.
- Prior authorization on non-controlled medications – should be bypassed or allow a pharmacist override, except for controlled and/or specialty drugs.
- Co-pays on early refills – should be exempt for recipients residing within the affected area.

The standard emergency override should still be available to pharmacies.

This policy change is only applicable for residents in the affected parishes identified in the emergency declaration, and should be based on the recipient's home address. If you are not able to lift edits on a parish-by-parish basis, they should be lifted for the entire state. These edits should NOT require a phone call to Pharmacy Benefits Management for override. Managed care organizations will be notified if additional affected parishes are identified and this advisory will be updated.

The proposed end date for the lift on these edits is currently Oct. 14, 2017. Should there be a need to extend the duration of the lift, the MCOs will be notified.