



Louisiana Department of Health
Informational Bulletin 16-12
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Medicaid Strategy for the Prevention of the Zika Virus in Louisiana

The purpose of this Informational Bulletin is to inform Louisiana Medicaid associated agencies, providers and stakeholders about Medicaid's efforts to prevent transmission and address the health risks to Louisiana Medicaid beneficiaries from the Zika virus.

Zika Virus Background

Zika virus disease (Zika) is caused by the Zika virus, and is commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito (*Aedes* species). Zika can also be transmitted via sexual contact (in semen), mother to child and blood transfusion. Common symptoms of Zika include fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. Most infected people don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. Zika infection during pregnancy can cause very serious birth defects such as microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects. It has also been linked to problems in infants such as eye defects, hearing loss and impaired growth.

Louisiana has had confirmed cases of Zika in travelers to the state. Local transmission has not yet been documented, but we do have the mosquitos that transmit Zika in the summer months. Therefore, it is imperative to focus our efforts on the prevention and diagnosis of Zika disease among women of child bearing age and men.

Prevention through Family Planning Services, Repellants and Prevention of Exposure

Family Planning

For pregnant women with a male partner who has traveled to an area of active Zika transmission or has been diagnosed with Zika, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends:

- Use condoms consistently and correctly or abstain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy.
- Sex includes vaginal, anal and oral (mouth-to-penis) sex.

For women of child bearing age and men who have been to an area with Zika, the CDC recommends:

- If the woman has symptoms, use condoms or abstain after symptoms starts for at least eight weeks.
- If the woman has no symptoms, use condoms or abstain for at least eight weeks after exposure.
- If the man has symptoms, use condoms or abstain after symptoms start for at least six months.
- If the man has no symptoms, use condoms or abstain for at least eight weeks and talk to your healthcare provider.

Repellants and Prevention of Exposure

Pregnant women and Medicaid beneficiaries of child bearing age should take steps to prevent mosquito bites by using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents as directed, avoiding travel to areas with Zika, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, utilizing window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside, and staying away from mosquito breeding sites such as areas of standing water.

Louisiana Medicaid Services

- ✓ Coverage of condoms for Medicaid beneficiaries of child bearing age.
- ✓ Medicaid providers are alerted that it is imperative to counsel about sexual transmission prevention among women of child bearing age and men.
- ✓ Coverage of certain EPA registered insect repellants when prescribed for:
 - All pregnant women; and
 - Medicaid beneficiaries (women and men ages 14-44) who are trying to conceive and have traveled to a Zika affected area or had unprotected sex with a male partner who has traveled to a Zika area.
- ✓ Medicaid providers are alerted to counsel Medicaid beneficiaries of child bearing age on repellent use and mosquito exposure prevention strategies.

Detection of Zika Infection

The CDC currently recommends testing for Zika among people with Zika symptoms **and** among women who are pregnant and have traveled to a Zika affected area or have had unprotected sex with a man who has recently traveled to a Zika affected area regardless of whether she is symptomatic. Implementation of testing would be of no additional cost to Medicaid.

Louisiana Medicaid Services

- ✓ Coverage of Zika testing for the following Medicaid Beneficiaries:
 - Members who traveled to an area with Zika and have symptoms.
 - Pregnant women who traveled to an area with Zika or have had unprotected sex with a man who has recently traveled to a Zika affected area.

Policies for Providers Prescribing Repellants to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries

Clinical criteria for Eligible Medicaid beneficiaries are:

- Medicaid beneficiaries who are pregnant
- Medicaid beneficiaries (women and men ages 14-44) who are trying to conceive **and** have traveled to a Zika affected area **or** had unprotected sex with a male partner who has traveled to a Zika area. To view the affected areas visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>

Repellants approved for coverage for eligible Medicaid beneficiaries are:

One bottle of mosquito repellent every rolling 30 days will be allowed. A prescription will be required to cover one of the following products:

Product Name	Ounces	UPC	NDC
Cutter Backwoods 25% Spray	6 oz.	71121962805	71121-0962-80
Cutter Skinsations 7% Spray	6 oz.	16500540106	16500-0540-10
OFF! Family Care 15% Spray	2.5 oz.	46500710377	46500-0710-37
OFF! Deep Woods Dry 25% Spray	4 oz.	46500717642	46500-0717-64
OFF! Deep Woods 25% Spray	6 oz.	46500018428	46500-0018-42
OFF! Active 15% Spray	6 oz.	46500018107	46500-0018-10
Repel Sportsmen 25% Spray	6.5 oz.	11423941375	11423-0941-37
Repel Sportsmen Max 40% Spray	6.5 oz.	11423003387	11423-0003-38

Take Home Points

It is imperative that we prevent Zika infection among pregnant women, as the social and economic implications of Zika disease among the unborn and infants is massive. Treatment of Zika disease among this vulnerable population is enormously costly, in terms of disability, long term services and human harm.

According to the CDC and Kaiser family foundation, the lifetime cost of care for a single child with microcephaly may range from \$1 million to \$10 million. Therefore, Louisiana Medicaid is taking proactive steps to prevent transmission of Zika to pregnant women.

Zika is a reportable disease in Louisiana. If you suspect Zika, immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology hotline 1-800-256-2748 for testing and treatment guidance.

Visit the CDC website addressing Zika among pregnant women: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/tools.html>