



September 26, 2018

Jen Steele  
Bureau of Health Services Financing  
P.O. Box 91030  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030

RE: Notice of Intent, "Pharmacy Benefits Management Program, Managed Care Supplemental Rebates", *Louisiana Register, August 2018*

Dear Ms. Steele,

The Advocacy Center of Louisiana protects and advocates for all people with disabilities in Louisiana; therefore, we are very interested in the policies established around healthcare in general and Medicaid in particular. We are writing in support of the creation of one preferred drug list (PDL) across the managed care organizations (MCO) that oversee Medicaid services and the fee for service Medicaid provided for by Louisiana Department of Health, directly, as provided for in the above referenced Notice of Intent.

A single PDL will eliminate confusion for Medicaid beneficiaries who depend on prescription drugs for acute and chronic health conditions. The single PDL will make it easier for families to use one managed care organization to oversee their Medicaid services without having to choose different plans for different family members based on each MCO's PDL. Health insurance is difficult to navigate, so having all family members on the same plan will make it much easier for beneficiaries.

With a single PDL, it is our understanding that prior authorization will not be required if a prescribed drug is on the PDL. This will allow people access to the medications that they need much more quickly rather than waiting for approval from the MCO or the state Medicaid fee-for-service contractor. It is also our assumption that this will make it easier for prescribers who will not have to check different plans PDL.

The Advocacy Center of Louisiana supports the use of a single preferred drug list with the crucial caveat that we expect that if the medications on the single PDL are not meeting the health needs of a Medicaid beneficiary, other medications will be offered even if they are not "preferred". As Louisiana Department of Health is

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aware, access to the right medication can be the difference between health and illness, or possibly life and death. We do expect that people will be given the drug that adequately treats their condition regardless of the single PDL.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you wish to discuss this further, feel free to contact me at [jabadie@advocacyla.org](mailto:jabadie@advocacyla.org) or 504-208-4141.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Abadie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeanne" being more prominent than the last name "Abadie".

Jeanne Abadie  
Senior Policy Analyst