

**Act 292 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session
Council on Medicaid Pharmacy Reimbursement**

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Bienville Building

Room 118

628 N. 4th Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

| Name | Committee Attendance | Attendance |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| M.J. Terrebonne | Pharmacist (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare) | Present |
| Kim Wixson | Louisiana Pharmacists Association | Absent |
| Nikki Hollier | Louisiana Board of Pharmacy | Present |
| Melwyn Wendt | Louisiana Department of Health | Absent |
| Dana Antoon | Louisiana Board of Pharmacy | Present |
| Dr. Stewart Gordon | Physician (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare) | Absent |
| Doug Boudreaux | Pharmacist (House Committee on Health & Welfare) | Present |
| Randal Johnson | Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association | Present |
| Dr. Wanda Thomas | Physician (House Committee on Health & Welfare) | Absent |
| Jeff Gaude | National Association of Chain Drug Stores | Present |
| Pam Reed | LA Alliance of Retail Pharmacies | Present |
| Zoom Attendance | Max, Ruth Kennedy People, Shelly Dupre, Cedar Pharmacy, Jane's iPhone, Kyle Bellingrath, Kim Wixson, Ivani's Iphone, Charlie Carona, Scott's iPhone, Minh Nguyen | |

- **Call to order**
 - The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m.
- **Introductions and Quorum Determination**
 - The roll was called by M.J. Terrebonne and a quorum was confirmed.
- **Review and approval of the September 13th meeting minutes**
 - Randal Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes and Jeff Gaude seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no objection.
- **Magellan Single PBM Implementation updates**

- M.J. Terrebonne: There were quite a few issues LIPA received and are addressing within the department
- Nikki Hollier: I think this is a programming issue with Magellan, based on this. Perhaps, Magellan is not recognizing coordination of benefits claims from Pioneer users. Magellan does not have things set-up in the same manner we are used to seeing.
- M. J. Terrebonne: I would be curious to know how many claims have been rejected since Magellan took over.
- Nikki Hollier: Nobody thought this would go smoothly. Any time you have a major change, there are bound to be some issues. I think it's resulting in a delay in patients getting their medication.
- Randal: I am disappointed that we don't have the Magellan representation or department representation here. We are sharing real time information with Magellan and the department. We are trying to expedite the solution.
- M.J. Terrebonne: I did receive an email from Mel Wendt saying she's not able to attend this meeting. We do not have any pharmacists from LDH present to update us on any of the issues.
- Nikki Hollier: This is extremely disappointing. The department canceled the last meeting date and we selected this date based on their availability.
- M.J. Terrebonne: After the meeting, I can email Mel, Kolynda, and Kim to see what day is good for them to meet. I would also recommend a Magellan representative be present at the next meeting.
- Nikki Hollier made a motion to have a Magellan representative at the next meeting. Doug Boudreaux seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Nikki Hollier: I have a patient who is adamant she has no other coverage. I was told last night by Rachel they are having a lot of issues. They are working on getting this updated and corrected but she wasn't able to give me a timeframe. I was hoping someone from the department would be here.
- M.J. Terrebonne: It sounds like there is some administrative error. They should allow some type of override until they get it fixed.
- Nikki Hollier: If there are any other patients out there who were flagged as having other coverage when they don't, their providers are running into issues.
- Randal Johnson: Are these universal problems or is it a particular software issue?
- Dana Antoon: I think it would be really good to have a Magellan representative at the next meeting
- Randal Johnson: We are having issues for pharmacies engaged in care management issues. After the length of time we have been asking for it. This was covered on a news story out of New Orleans.
- M.J. Terrebonne: As of today, the vaccine issue has not been completely resolved

- Randal Johnson: We did raise an issue to the department in the pharmacy setting you were getting half. The Medicaid Director said they would reimburse they have the state plan amendment to reimburse at 5928.
- M.J. Terrebonne: Did LDH send out a pharmacy facts?
- Randal: On Friday, October 27th we are still looking for the memo to be posted.
- M.J. Terrebonne: Is this regarding all vaccines?
- Randal Johnson: This is in the department's fee schedule. There are different reimbursement rates for the different vaccines. I think it might be appropriate if we ask the department to make those vaccines universal and uniform across providers.
- Nikki Hollier: Do they have different administration fees for the different types of vaccines?
- Randal Johnson: Why is this not uniform for pharmacist? When is the last time you've heard of a doctor giving a vaccine?
- Nikki Hollier: I believe the administration fee should be a uniform fee. When you are giving the vaccine, you're doing the same function and giving the same work.
- Randal Johnson: In the document listed 8.2 vaccine counseling is one piece. In 2021, CMS sent out a letter, it was edited again in 2022. You could get paid for the counseling. The state is telling us they are having a problem with placing this is NCPDP.
- Kim Wixson: Has anyone received a paid claim for the PE for vaccine counseling. This vaccine counseling has been approved for a very long time and we have been waiting for the department to figure out how to bill us on how to get paid. We have been doing this for a very long time for free. I would like to see a sense of urgency on getting this corrected and implemented.
- Nikki Hollier: We are still doing everything for free.
- Dana Antoon: It seems pretty clear in this memo on how you would get paid.
- Nikki Hollier: The vaccine fee and the counseling fee both have to be included in the incentive amount.
- Ruth Kennedy: Randal and I brought this to the attention of the Medicaid Director during last year. Many months have passed and this was not implemented by the department. Randal had us complete exhaustive research on what other states were doing, how they got this done, and we submitted this to Medicaid. This was 100 percent federal dollars.
- Nikki Hollier: We need to make sure this gets carried over to our agenda for the next meeting.

- **Local Reports- SIN report**

- M.J. Terrebonne: I emailed Mel and asked for an update on the fiscal report for fiscal year 2023. I think reports are valuable information. The last time I had to request a SIN report through a public records request.

- **Local Pharmacy Status**

- Randal Johnson: The length of time it's taking pharmacies to be enrolled in the Medicaid Program. Pharmacies became enrolled in the Medicaid program. Some of the MCOs were waiting on notification from the department.
- M.J. Terrebonne: Maybe we could ask for their process so everyone would know.
- Dana Antoon: Gainwell only does what the department has set for them to do.
- Randal Johnson: We still expect Gainwell to process the prescriptions for the next two to three years
- Nikki Hollier: Apparently the MCOs were changing patient lock-in and not reporting this to Gainwell. This resulted in Magellan receiving bad information. My question is for the department; are there any repercussions for reporting this information to Gainwell in a timely manner? There should be accountability.
- Randal Johnson: Someone needs to be looking at the information in the data warehouse
- Jeff Gaude: Did anyone receive a request from the state for claims adjudication
- Randal Johnson: We are sharing a lot of information in our claims adjudication and it's wide-spread.

- **Naloxone standing order**

- M. J. Terrebonne: Dr. Hussey is retiring and Dr. Shantel Hebert-Magee is the new prescriber. This will become effective January 1, 2024.

- **Update on Implementation dates for the following:**

- **Diabetic Supplies**
- Nikki Hollier: Some of the MCOs were covering some of the diabetic supplies, at the pharmacy, on the continuous glucose monitors. All monitors require a prior authorization.
- **Vaccine Counseling:**
- There was no discussion on vaccine counseling
- **MCO Dispensing Fee**
- Randal Johnson: I don't know how many times we are seeing the dispensing fee in a maintenance medication. Magellan was rejecting claims for birth control pills. In the communities which are more urban, we see the physicians prescribing on a shorter number of fills. Or, the pharmacists were using the 72 emergency fill too frequently.
- Nikki Hollier: Right now, the 72 emergency fill is being rejected. Prior to October 28th we were receiving messaging stating you could use different codes for an emergency fill. Rachel is aware of this. She was supposed to be forwarding this information to Magellan. This council requested data on how often pharmacies were requesting maintenance meds. We did not receive this data.
- Jeff Gaude: My team is working directly with the department right now.

- Randal Johnson: Are you finding the things we are discussing are common?
- Jeff Gaude: Our team will have to make a few edits.
- **Clotting Factor**
- M.J. Terrebonne: LDH is waiting on CMS approval
- **Professional dispensing Fee Increase**
- There was no discussion regarding professional dispensing fee increase

- **Call for Public Testimony**
 - N/A
- **Other Business**
 - Doug Boudreaux: Has the council reported to the Health and Welfare Committee
 - Randal Johnson stated he wasn't sure if the last report was shared with the legislature. It might be appropriate for us to work on a new report.
 - M.J. Terrebonne: Should we send the report to the current Secretary or wait to send to the new Secretary?
 - Randal: The change in government will be released by January 8th. We should cc the Senate President and Chairman Bagley.
 - MJ: We should work on a draft and get the report ready. We should take the minutes of this meeting. This should provide the basis of the letter.
 - Randal: This council was created as a matter of law. This was not a temporary council, it was created with permanence.
- **Adjournment**
 - Doug Boudreaux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dana Antoon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.