

JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

**COMPARISON OF LOUISIANA  
MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
ENCOUNTERS TO CASH  
DISBURSEMENTS FOR  
MANAGED CARE OF NORTH AMERICA  
DENTAL PLANS**



**MARCH 17, 2020**





<b>DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>STUDY PURPOSE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DATA SOURCES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>POTENTIAL DATA ISSUES AND ANALYSIS ASSUMPTIONS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MCNA DENTAL PLANS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CALCULATED VOID AND DUPLICATE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUMMARY REPORTING CHARTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>





The following terms are used throughout this document:

- **Cash Disbursement Journal (CDJ) Monthly Reported Total** – The sum of all payments for a given month reported by the dental benefit management program (DBMP) contractor to LDH.
- **CDJ Cumulative Reported Total** – The sum of all payments reported by the DBMP contractor to LDH. This amount is inclusive of all amounts included in this reporting period.
- **Cumulative Encounter Total** – The sum of all encounter submissions stored in the fiscal agent contractor's (FAC) system. This amount is inclusive of all amounts included in this reporting period.
- **Cumulative Variance** – The difference between the cumulative encounter total for the current reporting period and the CDJ cumulative reported total for the same period.
- **Dental Benefit Management Program (DBMP)** – A program authorized under a 1915(b) Medicaid waiver to serve all Medicaid beneficiaries eligible for dental services including children, eligible SCHIP Medicaid expansion children and adults. It was implemented statewide in July 2014 as a Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan (PAHP).
- **Dental Benefit Management Program (DBMP) Contractor** – A private organization contracted to manage the Louisiana Dental Benefit Management Program. Managed Care of North America (MCNA) Dental Plans is the current DBMP contractor.
- **DXC Technology (DXC)** – State fiscal agent contractor, known as Molina Medicaid Solutions prior to October 1, 2018.
- **Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)** – The agency in charge of overseeing the health services for the citizens of the state of Louisiana.
- **Fiscal Agent Contractor (FAC)** – A contractor selected to design, develop, and maintain the claims processing system (Medicaid Management Information System); DXC Technology (DXC), formerly known as Molina Medicaid Solutions (MMS), is the current FAC.
- **Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)** – The claims processing system used by the FAC to adjudicate Louisiana Medicaid and LaCHIP claims. DBMP-submitted encounters are loaded into this system and assigned a unique claim identifier.
- **Molina Medicaid Solutions (MMS or Molina)** – State fiscal agent contractor prior to October 1, 2018.
- **Monthly Encounter Total** – The sum of all encounter submissions for a given month stored in the FAC's system.
- **Monthly Variance** – The difference between the monthly encounter total and the CDJ monthly reported total, for the months included in the reporting period.





### STUDY PURPOSE

---

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) engaged Myers and Stauffer LC to analyze Louisiana Dental Benefit Management Program (DBMP) encounter data that has been submitted by the dental benefit management program (DBMP) contractor, MCNA Dental Plans, to DXC Technology (FAC) and complete a comparison of the encounters to cash disbursement journals provided by the DBMP contractor. For purposes of this analysis, “encounter data” are claims that have been paid by the DBMP contractor to health care providers that have provided health care services to members enrolled with the DBMP contractor. Such claims are submitted to LDH via the FAC for LDH's use in rate setting, federal reporting, program management and oversight, tracking, accounting and other ad hoc analyses.

LDH requested that, for this study, we estimate the percentage of paid encounter claims that appear to be included in the FAC's database. This analysis includes these percentages for all DBMP contractor's claims paid during the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.





Myers and Stauffer LC receives encounter data on a monthly basis from the FAC in a standardized data extract containing DBMP dental encounters with dates of service beginning July 1, 2014. Preliminary reviews of the data resulted in additional questions for Molina, now known as DXC Technology, to research and provide further clarification on the dental encounter claim counts in the extract. The LIFT 9990 addressed dental encounter issues that surfaced and the encounter data extract was confirmed to contain the DBMP encounters for measurement in October 2015.

Based on feedback from DXC and LDH, claims denied by the FAC have been excluded from our analysis. The data used for this report includes encounters received and accepted by the FAC and transmitted to Myers and Stauffer LC through January 28, 2020.

Myers and Stauffer LC also requested cash disbursement journals from the DBMP contractor, MCNA, with claim paid dates beginning July 1, 2014 and extending through December 31, 2019 in a standardized monthly format.



Encounters from Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and adult dental claim types were submitted to Myers and Stauffer LC by the FAC. We analyzed each encounter to capture the amount paid. Encounter totals were calculated by summarizing the data by the DBMP contractor paid date. Cash disbursement journals were submitted by MCNA and totals were summarized by paid date. The FAC-submitted encounters were compared to the cash disbursement journals to produce the following results.

Based on the analysis, we noted the following:

1. Void encounters in the FAC MMIS most often have the same MCNA adjudication dates as the encounters they are voiding. Void encounters which have an associated adjustment are coded to match the adjustment encounter's paid date. This allows for the proper matching of cash disbursements that occurred due to this void transaction.
2. We have attempted to identify instances where an encounter's status implies a specific sign valuation, e.g., a void implies that the amount should be negative; however, the MMIS data for these encounters may not accurately reflect the correct sign valuation. If this is found, the paid amounts for these encounters are adjusted to reflect the expected sign. We also check to see if paid amounts of these encounters accurately reflect the paid amounts of the corresponding encounters being adjusted. We have not found any cases in which there were conflicting paid amounts.
3. We use duplication logic, (exact, suspect and extract) to identify potential duplicate encounters. After analyzing the encounters and CDJ submissions, very few of these potential duplicates appear to be actual duplicate submissions. We have adjusted our totals to reflect the actual payment made and have removed potential duplicates from our analysis. Our process includes working with the DBMP contractor to determine whether these encounters are confirmed duplicates and revise our totals moving forward based on this determination.
4. In our analysis, we have attempted to identify missing encounters. We use the FAC MMIS encounter adjustment process to identify encounters that should exist as a result of encounter adjustment. For example, if a back-out/void is in the data, an original or adjustment (credit) encounter should exist which has the same internal control number as the back out and a paid amount which reflects that of the back-out. When this situation arises, we calculate (create) the missing claim.





### POTENTIAL DATA ISSUES AND ANALYSIS ASSUMPTIONS

---

1. This analysis only includes encounter information that was submitted by the DBMP contractor to the FAC and loaded into the FAC MMIS. Encounters submitted by the DBMP contractor that were system-denied by the FAC for errors in submission or other reasons are not included in this analysis.
2. For the purposes of this study, the payment amounts associated with FAC-denied encounters are identified as zero dollars in the encounter reconciliation analysis since they bear no impact on cash disbursements.
3. We continue to observe an absence of transactions with the “void” activity type in MCNA’s CDJ transaction files. We do, however, see encounter activity that indicates that voids are taking place. The absence of voids in the CDJ may artificially overstate the transaction amount and suppress the completion percentage of the encounter data.
4. We instructed MCNA to exclude referral fees, management fees and other non-encounter related fees in the cash disbursement journal (CDJ) data that is submitted to Myers and Stauffer LC. According to MCNA, interest payments are not submitted in the encounter data to the FAC. Additionally, there are a minimum amount of interest payments reflected in the cash disbursement journals. We have not made any adjustments to either the FAC MMIS data or the cash disbursement journals to account for interest.
5. The short run-out period of this reconciliation report may not allow sufficient time for MCNA to resolve encounter submission issues with the FAC. This may result in lower completion percentages when reconciling the encounter claims to CDJ totals in the more recent months.
6. Analysis of the encounter data and cash disbursement journals (CDJ), as well as frequent interactions with the DBMP contractor, LDH and the FAC have resulted in the identification of opportunities for improving the encounter reconciliation process. While we have attempted to account for these situations, other potential issues within the data may exist that have not yet been identified which may require us to restate a report or modify reconciliation processes in the future.





**MCNA DENTAL PLANS**

MCNA appears to have submitted approximately 99 percent of their encounter data for this period, with a cumulative monthly range between 97 percent and 99 percent.

Table 1 — MCNA Dental Plans

Paid Month	CDJ Monthly Reported Total	Monthly Encounter Total	Monthly Variance	CDJ Cumulative Reported Total	Cumulative Encounter Total	Cumulative Variance	% of Monthly Claims	% of Cumulative Total
January 2018	\$12,226,392	\$11,930,836	(\$295,557)	\$12,226,392	\$11,930,836	(\$295,557)	97.58%	97.58%
February 2018	\$10,990,722	\$10,794,315	(\$196,408)	\$23,217,115	\$22,725,151	(\$491,964)	98.21%	97.88%
March 2018	\$12,222,375	\$12,155,088	(\$67,287)	\$35,439,490	\$34,880,239	(\$559,251)	99.44%	98.42%
April 2018	\$11,738,704	\$11,611,836	(\$126,868)	\$47,178,194	\$46,492,075	(\$686,119)	98.91%	98.54%
May 2018	\$12,056,835	\$12,016,950	(\$39,886)	\$59,235,030	\$58,509,025	(\$726,005)	99.66%	98.77%
June 2018	\$12,868,720	\$12,751,713	(\$117,006)	\$72,103,749	\$71,260,738	(\$843,011)	99.09%	98.83%
July 2018	\$11,377,174	\$11,362,582	(\$14,592)	\$83,480,923	\$82,623,320	(\$857,603)	99.87%	98.97%
August 2018	\$15,552,427	\$15,471,706	(\$80,722)	\$99,033,351	\$98,095,026	(\$938,325)	99.48%	99.05%
September 2018	\$11,266,572	\$11,234,019	(\$32,553)	\$110,299,923	\$109,329,045	(\$970,878)	99.71%	99.11%
October 2018	\$14,885,001	\$14,816,061	(\$68,939)	\$125,184,924	\$124,145,106	(\$1,039,817)	99.53%	99.16%
November 2018	\$10,735,257	\$10,681,395	(\$53,862)	\$135,920,180	\$134,826,501	(\$1,093,679)	99.49%	99.19%
December 2018	\$11,331,710	\$11,278,846	(\$52,864)	\$147,251,890	\$146,105,346	(\$1,146,544)	99.53%	99.22%
January 2019	\$12,100,121	\$12,055,478	(\$44,644)	\$159,352,012	\$158,160,824	(\$1,191,188)	99.63%	99.25%
February 2019	\$11,361,496	\$11,267,097	(\$94,399)	\$170,713,508	\$169,427,921	(\$1,285,587)	99.16%	99.24%
March 2019	\$11,538,438	\$11,484,170	(\$54,269)	\$182,251,946	\$180,912,091	(\$1,339,856)	99.52%	99.26%
April 2019	\$11,041,621	\$10,860,717	(\$180,904)	\$193,293,568	\$191,772,808	(\$1,520,759)	98.36%	99.21%
May 2019	\$13,752,581	\$13,531,782	(\$220,799)	\$207,046,148	\$205,304,590	(\$1,741,558)	98.39%	99.15%
June 2019	\$10,300,503	\$10,216,873	(\$83,630)	\$217,346,651	\$215,521,463	(\$1,825,188)	99.18%	99.16%
July 2019	\$13,000,457	\$12,900,645	(\$99,811)	\$230,347,108	\$228,422,109	(\$1,924,999)	99.23%	99.16%
August 2019	\$13,512,334	\$13,325,439	(\$186,895)	\$243,859,442	\$241,747,548	(\$2,111,894)	98.61%	99.13%
September 2019	\$10,923,643	\$10,856,764	(\$66,879)	\$254,783,085	\$252,604,312	(\$2,178,773)	99.38%	99.14%
October 2019	\$14,565,963	\$14,422,435	(\$143,528)	\$269,349,049	\$267,026,747	(\$2,322,301)	99.01%	99.13%
November 2019	\$11,218,919	\$11,162,101	(\$56,818)	\$280,567,968	\$278,188,848	(\$2,379,119)	99.49%	99.15%
December 2019	\$10,966,396	\$10,920,305	(\$46,091)	\$291,534,364	\$289,109,153	(\$2,425,210)	99.57%	99.16%



**MCNA DENTAL PLANS  
CALCULATED VOID AND DUPLICATE SUMMARY**

The calculated void (CV) and potential duplicate (PDUP) encounters that have been identified through the encounter reconciliation analysis are indicated below. These encounters have been removed from the encounter reconciliation totals.

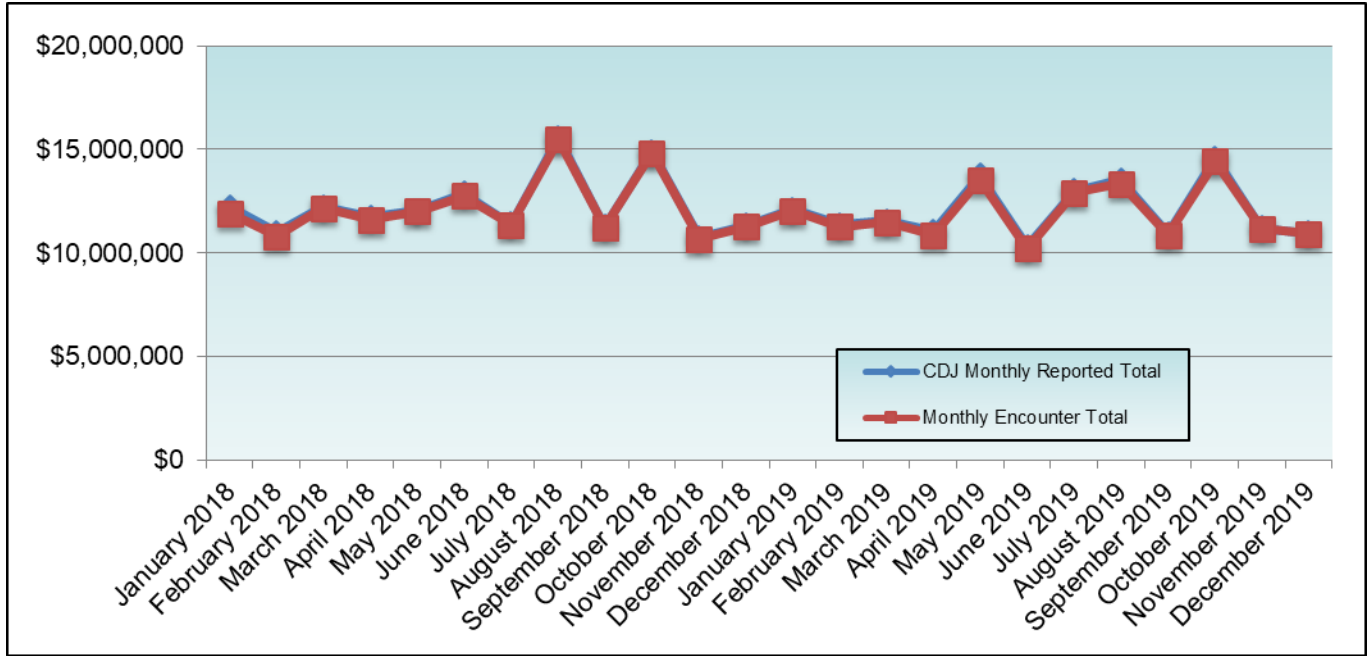
Table 2 — MCNA Dental Plans Calculated Void and Duplicate Summary						
Paid Month	Count of Encounter Claims	Total Sum (DBMP Submitted Paid Amounts)	Count of CV PDUP Claims	CV PDUP Amount Removed	% of CV PDUP Claim Count	% of CV PDUP Amount Removed
January 2018	318,374	11,930,836	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
February 2018	284,496	10,794,315	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
March 2018	297,489	12,155,088	3	\$448	0.00%	0.00%
April 2018	292,936	11,611,836	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
May 2018	286,350	12,017,397	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
June 2018	316,443	12,751,713	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
July 2018	269,116	11,362,582	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
August 2018	387,241	15,471,706	5	\$119	0.00%	0.00%
September 2018	261,505	11,234,019	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
October 2018	352,962	14,816,181	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
November 2018	251,772	10,681,395	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
December 2018	257,809	11,278,846	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
January 2019	292,857	12,055,478	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
February 2019	260,913	11,267,097	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
March 2019	267,683	11,484,170	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
April 2019	258,452	10,860,717	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
May 2019	313,006	13,531,782	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
June 2019	236,873	10,216,873	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
July 2019	306,727	12,900,645	1	\$152	0.00%	0.00%
August 2019	314,247	13,325,439	9	\$1,354	0.00%	0.01%
September 2019	258,505	10,856,916	4	\$725	0.00%	0.01%
October 2019	339,940	14,423,790	6	\$750	0.00%	0.01%
November 2019	266,942	11,162,826	4	\$583	0.00%	0.01%
December 2019	257,086	10,921,055	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,949,724</b>	<b>\$289,112,702</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$4,132</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

- **Count of Encounters** – The number of encounters processed by the FAC (excluding encounters marked as denied by the FAC).
- **Total Sum (DBMP Submitted Paid Amounts)** – The total paid amount of encounters in a month per the encounter data provided by the FAC.
- **Count of CV PDUP Encounters** – The number of encounters identified by Myers and Stauffer LC as potential calculated voids and duplicates as well as calculated voids and duplicates confirmed by the DBMP contractor.
- **CV PDUP Amount Removed** – The paid amount removed from the Monthly Encounter Total based on Myers and Stauffer LC’s analysis of calculated void and duplicate claims.
- **% of CV PDUP Encounter Count** – The percentage of CV PDUP encounters out of the total number of encounters.
- **% of CV PDUP Amount Removed** – The percentage of paid amount removed from the total DBMP submitted paid amount.



**MCNA DENTAL PLANS  
SUMMARY REPORTING CHARTS**

**MCNA Dental Plans' CDJ totals and encounter totals as reported monthly**



**MCNA Dental Plans' cumulative encounter submissions expressed as a percentage of payments submitted to the FAC to reported DBMP CDJ payments**

