



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

Changes to Durable Medical Equipment due to Tropical Storm Nate

On Oct. 6, 2017, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency and 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. The presidential emergency declaration was made 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.**

Effective Oct. 7, 2017, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is directing all managed care organizations (MCO) to ensure that any member in one of the declared parishes, who is in need of replacement equipment or supplies previously approved by the MCO, may contact any durable medical equipment provider contracted with the MCO to obtain a replacement. Members should not be required to have a new prescription and medical documentation for the replacement equipment or supplies.

Additionally, members who were approved to receive medical equipment or supplies from a MCO contracted provider in a declared parish who is no longer in business or unable to provide the approved equipment or supplies, must obtain the approved items from a new provider of their choice provided that the provider is contracted with the MCO. The MCO shall provide any guidance to the provider on the cancelation of the original authorization and issuance of a new authorization, if applicable.

All other prior authorization requests shall continue to be subject to the applicable requirements to establish medical necessity.

This policy change shall only be applicable for residents in the declared parishes. Managed care organizations will be notified if additional parishes are declared and this advisory will be updated.

The MCOs will be notified when this temporary policy change ends.