



**Louisiana Department of Health**  
**Informational Bulletin 15-8**  
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**Certification of Behavioral Health Providers**

This communication is to inform you of Medicaid policy decisions made concerning Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) certification requirements as we prepare for integration of specialized Medicaid behavioral health services into Managed Care effective Dec. 1, 2015.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has made a decision to **no longer** require OBH certification as a pre-condition to credentialing through the Managed Care Plans. Effective Sept. 15, 2015, the Office of Behavioral Health will **no longer** process applications for certification, recertification or change report requests. Providers of Medicaid specialized behavioral health services should contact the Managed Care Plans with whom they elect to contract to complete the credentialing processes according to their usual and customary practices of credentialing specialized behavioral health providers.

**LDH strongly recommends credentialing and contracting, including being loaded into the Plan's system for reimbursement, well in advance of Dec. 1, 2015.** Credentialing and contracting with the Plan in which a patient is enrolled will be necessary in order for providers to receive reimbursement for services provided on or after Dec. 1, 2015. You may find Managed Care Plan contact information for behavioral health providers [here](#). For news specifically pertaining to the integration, providers can click on the "Behavioral Health" tab on [MakingMedicaidBetter.com](#). To automatically receive updates and releases from the Department regarding the integration, click [here](#) and subscribe to the "Integrated Health Care" newsletter.