

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

February 6, 2023

Pharmacists Dispensing Naloxone

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is requiring that individuals at high risk for opioid overdose have expanded access to **naloxone** when clinically appropriate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), dosages ≥ 50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day doubles the risk of opioid overdose death, compared to 20 MME or less per day.

The State of Louisiana issued a “standing order” for naloxone which allows for participating pharmacists to dispense naloxone to laypeople including caregivers, family and friends of an opioid user. This **standing order**, which can be found at <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/NaloxoneStandingOrder.pdf>, also includes directions on how to administer naloxone to someone who has overdosed.

Please refer to the [Louisiana Medicaid Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#) to determine which naloxone products are preferred.

Additional information may be found in this month’s Louisiana Medicaid Provider Update, which includes the 2022 CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids: Initiating Opioids. This can be found at https://www.lamedicaid.com/providerupdate/provider_update_02_23.pdf.



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Medicaid annual renewals to re-start in April 2023

At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), Louisiana Medicaid made numerous changes to eligibility and enrollment systems and procedures. This included stopping closures for most Medicaid members.

Recent federal legislation ends this continuous Medicaid coverage and prompts the resumption of Medicaid eligibility renewals. This means that Medicaid renewals are no longer tied to the end of the PHE and will begin again on April 1, 2023.

Some eligibility reviews can be completed without contacting the member by using information from electronic databases. Many, however, will require members to respond to mail. For this reason, it is vital Medicaid members make certain Medicaid has their most up-to-date contact information, including cell phone numbers and email addresses.

Pharmacists may assist their patients in preparing for the beginning of the renewal period by [posting this flyer](#) in their pharmacy and encouraging members to make changes to their contact information by:

- Logging on to [MyMedicaid.la.gov](https://my.medicaid.la.gov),
- Emailing MyMedicaid@la.gov,
- Calling their health plan at the number on their member ID card; or
- Calling Medicaid's Customer Service hotline at 1-888-342-6207. Hotline assistance is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Although annual renewals will restart in April, not everyone will be required to complete their annual renewal the same month. Mailing of renewals will be staggered across 12 months, and it will take 14 months to complete the redetermination process for all Medicaid members.