

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

April 20, 2023

End of Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will end the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program will make the following changes in phases.

Pharmacy PHE Unwind	Date for Change
Continue allowance of up to a 90-day supply for specific maintenance medications.	April 1, 2023
Reinstatement of signature requirements for pick-up and delivery of prescriptions	May 12, 2023
Align the COVID vaccine administration fee with other vaccines. Currently, the vaccine billing rate is \$15.22 for the first vaccine and \$9.13 for the second vaccine (same-day billing)	May 12, 2023
No "at-home" administration fee of \$32.98 for COVID vaccines	May 12, 2023
Reinstatement of co-payments for qualified adult recipients except for COVID treatment and tests	May 12, 2023
Reinstatement of copayment for COVID treatments for (Paxlovid and Lagevrio) and COVID tests	September 30, 2024
Termination of allowance for pharmacists to be the prescribing provider for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio)	January 1, 2025
Turn off allowance for pharmacists, qualified pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to administer COVID vaccines to beneficiaries 17 years and younger due to PREP Act. Reinstatement of LABP state law allowance of pharmacists administration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flu vaccines (7 years and above); and • all other vaccines (17 years and above) 	January 1, 2025

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Medicaid Provider Enrollment Portal Update and Requirement

Pharmacies, pharmacists and prescribers who were invited but have not yet enrolled in the Louisiana Medicaid Provider Enrollment Portal will cause pharmacy claims to deny beginning **July 1, 2023**. Invitations to enroll were sent by Gainwell Technologies, Louisiana Medicaid's fiscal intermediary.

The Louisiana Medicaid Provider Enrollment Portal was designed to meet a CMS requirement and must be used by all providers that provide care to Medicaid members and file claims with Louisiana Medicaid, including the Healthy Louisiana plans. The enrollment portal is accessible through Medicaid's fiscal intermediary website at www.lamedicaid.com. Additional guidance to help providers navigate enrollment can be found at www.ldh.la.gov/medicaidproviderenrollment. The site includes links to FAQs, manuals and training webinars, as well as contact information for providers with questions about enrollment.

If providers encounter any issues or have any questions, they should contact the call center at (833) 641-2140, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST or send an email to LouisianaProvEnroll@gainwelltechnologies.com.

Medicaid Restarts Eligibility Determinations

Louisiana Medicaid restarted eligibility determinations this month. These eligibility reviews typically happen annually but were paused due to COVID-19. Mailing of renewals will be staggered across 12 months, and it will take 14 months to complete the redetermination process for all Medicaid members. The first closures will be effective July 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 that Medicaid members know to keep their contact information with Louisiana Medicaid up to date. If Medicaid does not have the current information, members could miss important letters about their health insurance coverage and risk losing coverage, even if eligible.

All Medicaid member households should have received a "pink letter" asking Medicaid members to make sure their contact information – including mailing address, phone number, cell phone number and email address – is up to date. If a member did NOT receive a pink letter, it is likely that Medicaid has outdated contact information. The member should contact Medicaid or their health plan right away to update their information.

A [toolkit](#) has been developed to help share this information. The toolkit includes background and talking points, materials, and social media messages to inform members about the restart. Please help

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spread the word and encourage Medicaid members to keep their contact information updated. They can do so by:

- Logging on to [MyMedicaid.la.gov](https://mymedicaid.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.