

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

March 16, 2020

COVID-19

As a precaution in the early stages of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) intends to take measures to minimize public exposure. Select pharmacy edits will be revised to encourage recipients to get all necessary maintenance medications during one pharmacy visit.

Effective March 17, members may receive early refills and up to a 90-day supply, as appropriate, of maintenance medications that are not controlled substances. These include cardiovascular drugs (hypertension, coronary artery disease, thrombosis), diabetes drugs, respiratory drugs (inhaled and oral), contraceptives, antiretrovirals, direct-acting antivirals for hepatitis C, immunosuppressives, antipsychotics, and antidepressants, among others.

To reduce exposure, providers should consider encouraging members to use pharmacies that offer free home delivery services or drive-through pickup services. Pharmacy delivery to Medicaid recipients should be at no charge to the recipient since delivery is included in the pharmacy costs calculation of the professional dispensing fee.

Copayment requirements will not be lifted at this time, in accordance with CMS guidance. However, the provider may not deny services to any eligible individual on account of the individual's inability to pay the copayment amount (42 CFR 447.15). The beneficiary's assertion of his/her inability to pay the copayment establishes the inability. Under 42 CFR 447.15, this service statement does not apply to any individual who is able to pay, nor does an individual's inability to pay eliminate his or her liability for the copayment.