

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

June 28, 2019

Hepatitis C Subscription Model

LDH is excited to announce the launch of the hepatitis C subscription model, a partnership with Asegua, a subsidiary of Gilead, to provide unlimited access to the authorized generic of Epclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir) to Louisiana Medicaid recipients. **On July 15, 2019, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (AG) will be the sole preferred drug on the Medicaid Single Preferred Drug List (PDL) with no prior authorization.** The managed care organizations (MCO) will follow the updated LDH criteria for the non-preferred direct-acting antiviral (DAA) agents.

Fee-for-Service (FFS) and the MCOs will continue to reimburse pharmacy claims for hepatitis C at the current reimbursement methodology (professional dispensing fee, ingredient cost and provider fee). Pharmacies may continue to utilize their current wholesaler for inventory purposes.

The subscription model is in conjunction with a multi-year campaign led by the Office of Public Health to bolster treatment capacity throughout the state. Planning for the implementation of public health strategies that will support the subscription model is ongoing and includes input from LDH, Medicaid, the Department of Corrections, the Office of Public Health, national experts, pharmacists, medical providers and other stakeholders. The following strategies will be implemented in parallel with the subscription model:

- Expanding provider capacity to treat hepatitis C. This will include optional training for primary care providers to diagnose and treat hepatitis C as well as guidance on referring individuals with advanced liver disease, cancer and substance use disorder to specialists as appropriate.
- Educating the public on the availability of a cure and mobilizing priority populations for screenings. The campaign will include public messaging around risk factors for contracting hepatitis C; education on the importance of treatment before symptoms appear; increased access to screening; and information about the state's new, unprecedented access to DAAs.
- Expanding HCV screening and expediting linkage to an HCV cure. Screening for hepatitis C is recommended for all individuals born between 1945 and 1965 and for those who are at increased risk of infection. Healthcare providers across the state will screen priority populations to ensure all individuals with hepatitis C are linked to care for treatment.
- Strengthening HCV surveillance to link persons previously diagnosed to treatment. LDH's existing hepatitis C surveillance system will be upgraded to support the timely identification of individuals with chronic hepatitis C infections.
- Implementing harm reduction and complementary treatment strategies. Strategies to prevent new or reinfections must also be employed, including expanded access to syringe service programs and behavioral and medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.

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- Extending elimination efforts to all populations within the state. Many Louisianans infected with hepatitis C are neither Medicaid beneficiaries nor incarcerated. To truly achieve statewide elimination, the state will work with new and existing partners, including commercial insurers, health systems and entities serving the uninsured through other appropriate mechanisms.

Single PDL

As an update to the Single PDL implementation, LDH was recently made aware that the FMOLHS providers (Our Lady of the Lake, Our Lady of the Lake Ascension, Our Lady of the Angels, Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health, Our Lady of Lourdes in Lafayette and St. Francis in Monroe) and the Baton Rouge Clinic providers have embedded the Medicaid Single PDL within their EPIC electronic health record. This will allow their providers access with a single click. LDH encourages other provider groups to incorporate the Single PDL in their electronic medical records as well.

Rebate Eligible Manufacturers

Pharmacy providers and other stakeholders can access Appendix C of the Medicaid Pharmacy Provider Manual to determine which manufacturers are participating in the federal rebate program. The first five digits of the National Drug Code (NDC) identify the manufacturer and those labeler numbers are included in Appendix C. Medicaid will receive federal funding on claims when the manufacturer signed the federal rebate agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Since we do not receive federal funding, Medicaid does not pay for claims when there is not agreement between CMS and the manufacturer.

Appendix C can be found at:

https://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/forms/drug_appendices/APNDC.pdf