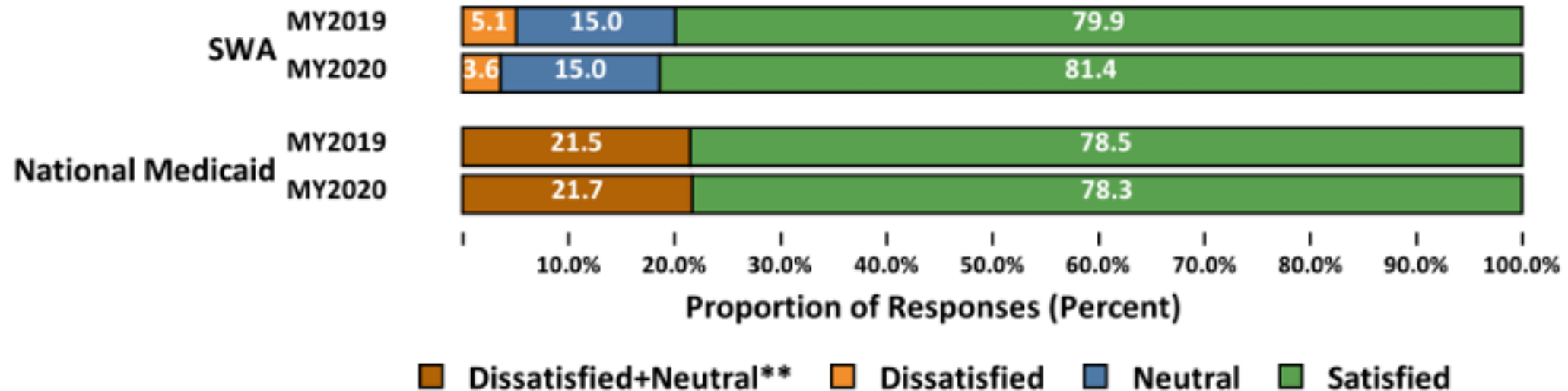


Medicaid Program Updates and COVID-19 Updates



Quality Updates – Experience of Care Reports

- Adult Rating of Plan (example):



- Available on quality website: <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/47>

Quality Updates – HEDIS Report

State of Louisiana Department of Health

**HEDIS MY 2020 Healthy Louisiana Performance
Measure Results and Analysis**

FINAL
November 2021

- Also available on quality website

Quality Updates – Health Plan Report Card

HEALTH PLAN REPORT CARD



The ratings below compare the performance of Louisiana's Medicaid health plans. This report card shows the results of care in the areas of Consumer Satisfaction, Prevention and Treatment, and can aid you and your family when deciding on a health plan.

Performance Key	Lowest	Low	Average	High	Highest
	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★

- For members to use when selecting a plan, posted online

Quality Updates - Dashboard

- The Medicaid Managed Care Quality Dashboard is being updated for clarity
- Formerly, 2020 results referred to care that happened in 2019 but was reported in 2020 (this is how HEDIS had done historically)
- We are moving to reporting 2020 results as the care that happened in 2020 and was reported out in 2021

Provider Enrollment – The Portal is Live

- LDH has proposed a deadline extension to CMS. The proposed deadline is June 30, 2022 and pending approval from CMS.
- Medicaid sent all current providers a letter explaining the process for enrollment with instructions. For enrollment, providers will need: Louisiana Provider ID, NPI, city, state and zip code
- If a provider does not have this letter or this information, they can email louisianaprovenroll@gainwelltechnologies.com to request a reprinted letter be mailed. Email requests must include the provider name and the NPI. Providers may send multiple provider requests in a single email.
- Reprinted letter requests will only be accepted by email. No other form of submission is accepted. Providers will receive a confirmation email from Gainwell when the submission is received. That email will include an anticipated turnaround time for the response.

Medicaid MCO RFP

Please see the update: <https://ldh.la.gov/news/MCOcontracts22>

Louisiana Department of Health announces intent to award MCO contracts

February 11, 2022

The Request for Proposals for Managed Care Organizations was released on June 24, 2021. Proposals were due on September 10, 2021. The Louisiana Department of Health received proposals from Aetna Better Health of Louisiana; AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana; Healthy Blue; Humana; Louisiana Healthcare Connections; and UnitedHealthCare Community Plan Louisiana.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) announced its intent to contract with the following MCOs after completing the review of proposals.

- Aetna Better Health of Louisiana
- AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
- Healthy Blue
- Humana
- Louisiana Healthcare Connections

This announcement only announces the intent to contract. Contract awards are not final until the completion of the 14-day protest period and the resolution of any protests. The 14-day period begins on February 12, 2022 and ends on February 25, 2022.

Business Plan

- Key focus areas of maternal and child health
- Maternal health:
 - Technology to improve pregnancy care
 - Enhanced breastfeeding support
- Child health:
 - Fluoride varnish
 - Developmental screening
 - Childhood vaccinations

Business Plan – Maternal Health

- Add **coverage of remote patient monitoring** technology for prenatal care, including for management hypertension (ongoing)
 - Met with stakeholders, including SMEs and Perinatal Commission members
 - Investigated internal mechanisms to expand DME coverage for BP monitors compatible with RPM care
 - Obtained data on expected eligibility based on diagnoses of chronic HTN in pregnancy
 - Next Steps: Submit fiscal analysis to actuary for approval and submit policy change for publication
- **Research and begin implementation on policy options** for using technology to improve access to routine and specialty obstetric care through telehealth, remote patient monitoring, and subspecialty consultation (nearing completion)
 - Surveyed MCOs and found 4/5 offer some form of RPM services for pregnant members, either through a RPM vendor or through direct CPT reimbursement
 - Researched other state's coverage models and professional organization recommendations
 - Drafted an edit to the Obstetrics section of the MCO manual to advise on the option to reimburse RPM for pregnant women
 - Next Steps: Publish MCO Manual Edits and continue meeting with stakeholders/MCO to plan future steps

Business Plan – Maternal Health

- Facilitate **breast pump and breast milk** storage device availability and accessibility to Medicaid beneficiaries (complete)
 - Completed fiscal analysis and obtained approval to add Human Milk Storage Bags to DME coverage
 - Publication of coverage of Human Milk Storage Bags likely February 2022, pending public comment period
 - Surveyed MCOs and confirmed 2/5 currently allow pump distribution prior to birth
 - Next Steps: Facilitate and track routine communication between BFH and MCOs to collaborate on Medicaid enrollee outreach and coordination of available breastfeeding resources
- **Propose clinical and reimbursement policy** that expands covered lactation services (nearing completion)
 - Completed research on other state Medicaid lactation support policies and options
 - Completed breastfeeding focus groups
 - Next Steps: Finalize report on policy review and focus group findings to inform policy options for LA

Business Plan – Pediatrics

- **Evaluate MCO performance improvement project** to increase developmental screenings (complete)
 - Reviewed all MCO PIP interventions and final measures
 - Screening increased, on average, by 10% with final percentage screened at about 22% using new procedure code measurement
- Increase the number of Medicaid insured children ages 0-3 years who receive a **developmental screening** by recommended ages by 4,300 (5%) (ongoing)
 - Oversaw MCO PIP, ended in 12/2021
 - Collaborated with Developmental Screening Coordinator and participated on provider webinars
 - Performed interim analysis showing we are at 70% of target
 - Next Steps: Final analysis in June

Business Plan – Pediatrics

- **Collaborate with existing immunization programs and health systems** to direct vaccination catch-up efforts to areas or populations that are below the average vaccination rates in the state (ongoing)
 - Facilitated creation of an internal analysis database to facilitate analyses of Medicaid vaccination rates
 - Participated in a multi-state Community of Practice through the CDC to explore interventions and strategies
 - Met with SMEs on HPV vaccinations in adolescents to discuss barriers
 - Next Steps: Complete draft of plans to identify gaps and develop interventions
- **Increase the provision of fluoride varnish** in the medical home by 500 applications for children insured through Medicaid (ongoing)
 - Launched fluoride varnish MCO PIP in January 2022
 - Participating in Oral Health Affinity Group project
 - Disseminated provider survey on barriers to FV applications in early February 2021
 - Next Steps: Preparing webinar series for providers in conjunction with the LA AAP and MCOs

Health Equity Action Team

- Completed a Health Equity Checklist to serve as guidance when considering appropriate language and a reminder that Health Equity can be reflected in language we use
- Examining means to update and improve Medicaid enrollee experience survey
- Developing Health Equity Best Practices Guidelines in partnership with national partners and stakeholders

Community Health Workers

- We are in the process of submitting a state plan amendment to add coverage of the following services:
 - Health promotion and coaching for individuals
 - Care planning with a beneficiary's healthcare team
 - Health system navigation and resource coordination services
- More information soon after CMS approval
- More information about community health workers later in this meeting

COVID-19 Updates



Medicaid Flexibilities Related to the PHE

[Health Plan Advisories](#)

and

[Informational Bulletins](#)

are updated regularly and posted

on the [LDH website](#)

At-home COVID-19 tests dispensed in pharmacies

- Medicaid covers COVID-19 tests purchased by patients in pharmacies
- Limited to tests that have received an EUA and do not require additional technology to process
- Limited to 8 tests per month (similar to commercial insurance)
- For more information, go to: www.lamedicaid.com -> Medicaid Programs & Initiatives -> Pharmacy

Oral COVID-19 Antivirals

- Molnupiravir and nirmatrelvir/ritonavir
- Medicaid covers the dispensing of these agents (the drugs themselves are currently distributed at no cost)
- No prior authorization required
- For more information, go to: www.lamedicaid.com -> Medicaid Programs & Initiatives -> Pharmacy

COVID-19 Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

- Tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld), intramuscular injection
- Medicaid covers administration of this agent as required by federal law (medication itself is currently distributed at no cost)
- No prior authorization required
- For more information, go to: www.lamedicaid.com -> Fee Schedules
-> COVID-19 Fee Schedules

Key Flexibilities Remaining in Place

- Testing: Medicaid covers commercial COVID-19 testing and testing using high throughput technology, and FDA-approved serologic antibody testing (per CDC guidelines)
- Treatment: Medicaid covers all COVID-19 treatment approved by the FDA under EUA
- Vaccine: Medicaid covers administration of COVID-19 vaccination including at home

Key Flexibilities Remaining in Place

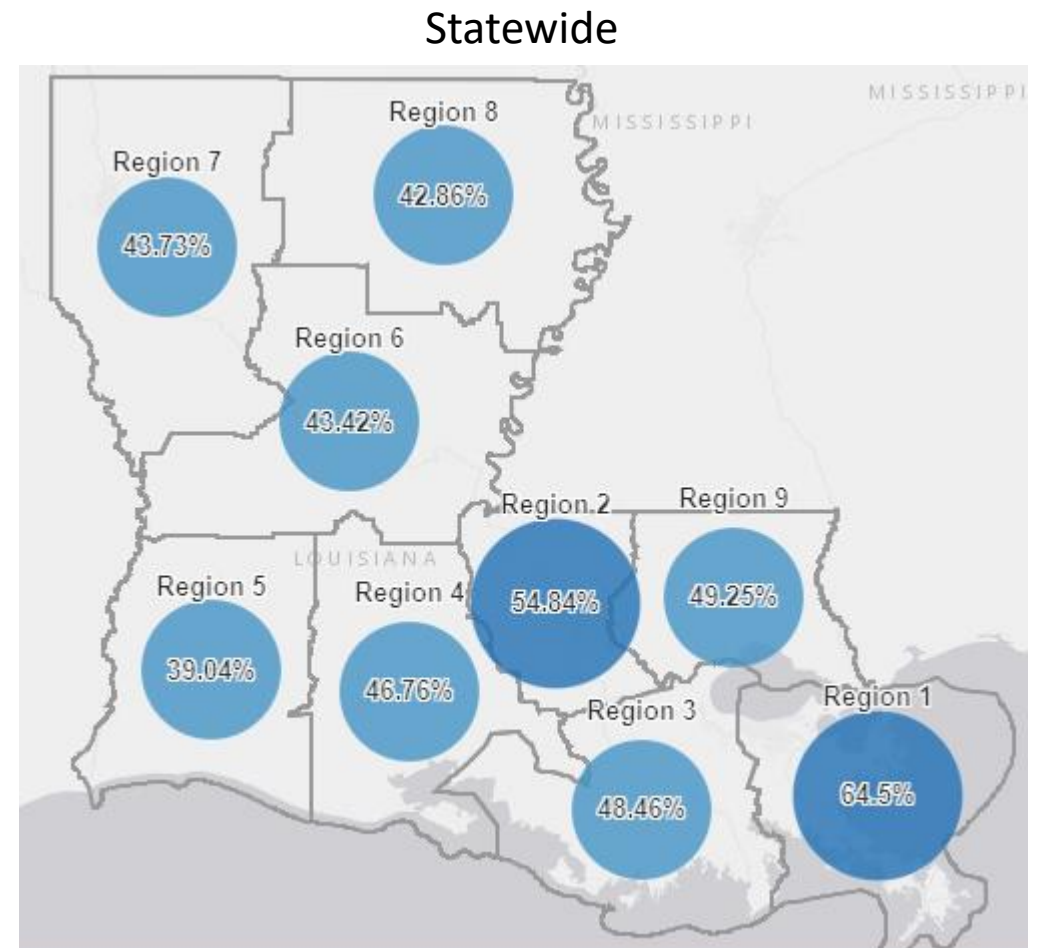
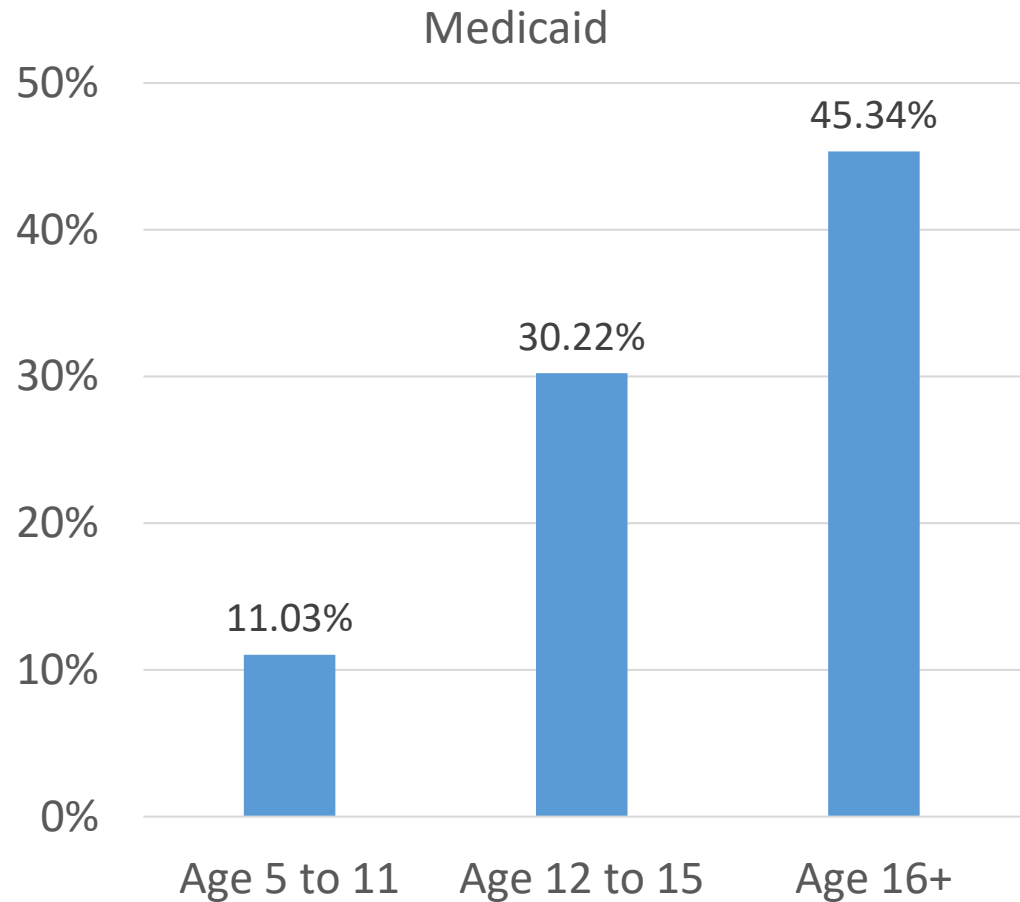
- Telehealth flexibilities remain in effect
 - Meaning relaxation on video requirement, HIPAA-compliant platforms, distant site
- Telehealth remains allowable for PT, OT, ST, EarlySteps, ABA, and components of EPSDT preventive services for ages 24 months and older, when clinically appropriate
 - For ABA, new patients are still PA; existing PAs are extended through 4/30/2021
 - All PAs submitted after 10/31/2020 must include how telehealth will be incorporated in treatment plan
- Inter-professional assessment and management services that occur through EHR, audio/visual platforms, or via telephone (e-consults).

Key Flexibilities Remaining in Place

- Many chronic meds (excluding controlled substances) are available for 90-day supply, with co-pays waived, and signatures not required for delivery
- Many DME supplies remain available for 90-day supply, with PAs extended and signatures not required for delivery

Louisiana Medicaid COVID Vaccine Rates (2/10/22)

Percent of Beneficiaries Receiving at least 1 Dose of Vaccine



COVID Vaccination Performance Improvement Project

- LDH continues to conduct a performance improvement project with the MCOs to increase COVID-19 vaccination
- Linked immunization registry with Medicaid enrollment data to get more current and complete data than claims
- Weekly reports of vaccine performance and monthly reporting of activities and strategies
- Focus on adults and children as well as racial/ethnic disparities and homebound members
- Variety of strategies including provider incentives, community engagement, and direct outreach

Thank You

