

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Emergency Telemedicine/Telehealth  
(LAC 50:I.Chapter 5)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:I.Chapter 5 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which adopted provisions allowing coverage of telemedicine/telehealth services provided through an interactive audio system, without the requirement of video, in the event of a declared emergency (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 46, Number 4). The department subsequently promulgated an Emergency Rule in order to clarify the provisions of the March 16, 2020 Emergency Rule (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 48, Number 4). This proposed Rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2022 Emergency Rules and to update the provisions governing telemedicine/telehealth in the *Louisiana Administrative Code*.

**Title 50  
PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
Part I. Administration**

**Subpart 1. General Provisions**

**Chapter 5. Telemedicine/Telehealth**

**§501. Introduction**

A. Telemedicine/telehealth is the use of an interactive audio and video telecommunications system to permit real time communication between a distant site health care practitioner and the beneficiary. There is no restriction on the originating site (i.e., where the beneficiary is located) and it can include, but is not limited to, a healthcare facility, school, or the beneficiary's home.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 31:2032 (August 2005), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 46:796 (June 2020), LR 48:

**§503. Claim Submissions**

A. Medicaid covered services provided via telemedicine/telehealth shall be identified on claim submissions by appending the appropriate place of service or modifier to the appropriate procedure code, in line with current policy.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 31:2032 (August 2005), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 45:436 (March 2019), LR 48:

**§505. Emergency Provisions**

A. In the event that the federal or state government declares an emergency or disaster, the Medicaid Program may temporarily cover services provided through the use of an interactive audio telecommunications system, without the requirement of video, if such action is deemed necessary to ensure sufficient services are available to meet beneficiaries' needs.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 48:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

**Family Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have a positive impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972, as it will ensure continued access to certain services during a declared emergency.

**Poverty Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have a positive impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973, as it will ensure continued access to certain services during a declared emergency.

**Small Business Analysis**

In compliance with the Small Business Protection Act, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on small businesses.

**Provider Impact Statement**

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is

anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

#### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Patrick Gilles, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Mr. Gilles is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on May 31, 2022.

#### **Public Hearing**

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Office of the Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 10, 2022. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:953(A)(2)(a) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on May 26, 2022 in Room 118 of the Bienville Building, which is located at 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. To confirm whether or not a public hearing will be held, interested persons should first call Allen Enger

at (225) 342-1342 after May 10, 2022. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested persons are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing. In the event of a hearing, parking is available to the public in the Galvez Parking Garage, which is located between North Sixth and North Fifth/North and Main Streets (cater-corner from the Bienville Building). Validated parking for the Galvez Garage may be available to public hearing attendees when the parking ticket is presented to LDH staff at the hearing.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person Preparing Statement: Veronica Dent Dept.: Health  
Phone: 324-3228 Office: Bureau of Health Services Financing  
Return Address: P.O. Box 91030 Rule Title: Emergency Telemedicine/Telehealth  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Date Rule Takes Effect: March 16, 2020

SUMMARY  
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 21-22. It is anticipated that \$648 (\$324 SGF and \$324 FED) will be expended in FY 21-22 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will not affect federal revenue collections other than the federal share of the promulgation costs for FY 21-22. It is anticipated that \$324 will be collected in FY 21-22 for the federal share of the expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed rule continues the provisions of the March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2022 Emergency Rules which allowed coverage of telemedicine/telehealth services provided through an interactive audio system, without the requirement of video, in the event of a declared emergency. The proposed rule also updates the telemedicine/telehealth provisions in the *Louisiana Administrative Code*. Beneficiaries will be positively impacted by implementation of this proposed rule, as it ensures continued access to certain services during declared emergencies. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs to providers in FY 21-22, FY 22-23 and FY 23-24, but will be beneficial by providing Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of audio-only telemedicine/telehealth services during declared emergencies.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.



Signature of Agency Head or Designee

Patrick Gilles, Medicaid Executive Director  
Typed Name & Title of Agency Head or Designee

April 7, 2022  
Date of Signature

  
Evan Brassef, Interim Deputy  
Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee *Fiscal Officer*

4 / 7 / 22  
Date of Signature

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

This proposed rule continues the provisions of the March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2022 Emergency Rules which allowed coverage of telemedicine/telehealth services provided through an interactive audio system, without the requirement of video, in the event of a declared emergency. The proposed rule also updates the telemedicine/telehealth provisions in the *Louisiana Administrative Code*.

- B. Summarize the circumstances, which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which adopted provisions allowing coverage of telemedicine/telehealth services provided through an interactive audio system, without the requirement of video, in the event of a declared emergency (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 46, Number 4). The department subsequently promulgated an Emergency Rule in order to clarify the provisions of the March 16, 2020 Emergency Rule (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 48, Number 4). This proposed Rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2022 Emergency Rules and to update the provisions governing telemedicine/telehealth In the *Louisiana Administrative Code*.

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

No. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will have no programmatic fiscal impact to the state other than the cost of promulgation for FY 21-22. In FY 21-22, \$648 is included for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ NO. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET**

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

<b>COSTS</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>	<b>FY 24</b>
Personal Services			
Operating Expenses	\$648	\$0	\$0
Professional Services			
Other Charges			
Equipment			
Major Repairs & Constr.			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$648</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**POSITIONS (#)**

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A. 1.," including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

In FY 21-22, \$648 will be spent for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>	<b>FY 24</b>
State General Fund	\$324	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated			
Federal Funds	\$324		
Other (Specify)			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$648</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

Yes, sufficient funds are available to implement this rule.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

This proposed rule has no known impact on local governmental units.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit, which will be affected by these costs or savings.

There is no known impact on the sources of local governmental funding.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET**

**II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24
State General Fund			
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated Funds*			
Federal Funds	\$324	\$0	\$0
Local Funds			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$324</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

In FY 21-22, \$324 will be collected for the federal share of the administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
WORKSHEET**

**III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS**

- A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur, as a result of the proposed action.

This proposed rule continues the provisions of the March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2022 Emergency Rules which allowed coverage of telemedicine/telehealth services provided through an interactive audio system, without the requirement of video, in the event of a declared emergency. The proposed rule also updates the telemedicine/telehealth provisions in the *Louisiana Administrative Code*. Beneficiaries will be positively impacted by implementation of this proposed rule, as it ensures continued access to certain services during declared emergencies.

- B. Also, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs to providers in FY 21-22, FY 22-23 and FY 23-24, but will be beneficial by providing Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of audio-only telemedicine/telehealth services during declared emergencies.

**IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.