

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

**Applied Behavior Analysis-Based Therapy Services
Reimbursement Methodology
(LAC 50:XV.703)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:XV.703 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 proposes to amend the provisions governing applied behavior analysis-based therapy services in order to clarify the requirements relative to the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) codes utilized for reimbursement for these services.

Title 50

**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part XV. Services for Special Populations
Subpart 1. Applied Behavior Analysis-Based Therapy Services**

§703. Reimbursement Methodology

A. ...

B. Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2017, ABA rates and codes in effect on December 31, 2016 may be

realigned to be consistent with Louisiana commercial rates or ABA codes adopted by the American Medical Association via current procedural terminology (CPT) codes.

1. ...
2. New prior authorizations with a begin date after the promulgation date of these provisions must use the codes in effect prior to January 1, 2017 for those services provided and to be delivered prior to January 1, 2017, and for any services provided after January 1, 2017, the codes in effect at the time of service delivery.

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 41:928 (May 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 43:662 (April 2017), LR 45: 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.

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 no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on September 29, 2019.

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 September 9, 2019. 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 September 29, 2019 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 September 9, 2019. 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.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person

Preparing

Statement: Veronica Dent

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Office: Bureau of Health Services
Financing

Return Address: P.O. Box 91030

Baton Rouge, LA

Rule Title:

Applied Behavior Analysis-
Based Therapy Services
Reimbursement Methodology

Date Rule Takes Effect:

November 20, 2019

SUMMARY

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 summary statements, based on the attached worksheets, 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 19-20. It is anticipated that \$432 (\$216 SGF and \$216 FED) will be expended in FY 19-20 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 have no effect on revenue collections other than the federal share of the promulgation costs for FY 19-20. It is anticipated that \$216 will be collected in FY 19-20 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 OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing applied behavior analysis-based (ABA) therapy services in order to clarify the requirements relative to the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) codes utilized for reimbursement for these services. Implementation of this proposed rule will not reduce or increase payments to providers of ABA therapy services since this is an administrative change which does not change the current reimbursement rates or methodology. Condensing the temporary codes to the new permanent codes is not anticipated to result in any additional costs to the program. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs in FY 19-20, FY 20-21 and FY 21-22, but will benefit providers of ABA therapy services by clarifying existing procedures and ensuring use of the appropriate CPT codes for billing.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.


Signature of Agency Head
or Designee

Jen Steele, Medicaid Director
Typed name and Title of
Agency Head or Designee


LDH/BHSF Budget Head


Signature of
Legislative Fiscal Officer
or Designee

8/9/19
Date of Signature

08108/19
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 deliberations 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 amends the provisions governing applied behavior analysis-based (ABA) therapy services in order to clarify the requirements relative to the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) codes utilized for reimbursement for these services.

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

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing applied behavior analysis-based therapy services in order to clarify the requirements relative to the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) codes utilized for reimbursement for these services.

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.

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 19-20. In FY 19-20, \$432 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) If yes, attach documentation.
(b) If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET

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

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

COST	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
PERSONAL SERVICES			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$432	\$0	\$0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
OTHER CHARGES			
REPAIR & CONSTR.			
POSITIONS (#)			
TOTAL	\$432	\$0	\$0

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 19-21, \$432 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.

Source	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$216	\$0	\$0
SELF-GENERATED			
FEDERAL FUND	\$216	\$0	\$0
OTHER (Specify)			
Total	\$432	\$0	\$0

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 THIS PROPOSED ACTION.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustment 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.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET

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

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

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

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

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
STATE GENERAL FUND			
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED			
RESTRICTED FUNDS*			
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$216	\$0	\$0
LOCAL FUNDS			
Total	\$216	\$0	\$0

***Specify the particular fund being impacted**

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

In FY 19-20, \$216 will be collected for the federal share of the administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

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

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing applied behavior analysis-based (ABA) therapy services in order to clarify the requirements relative to the appropriate current procedural terminology (CPT) codes utilized for reimbursement for these services.

B. Also, provide an estimate of any revenue impact resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

Implementation of this proposed rule will not reduce or increase payments to providers of ABA therapy services since this is an administrative change which does not change the current reimbursement rates or methodology. Condensing the temporary codes to the new permanent codes is not anticipated to result in any additional costs to the program. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs in FY 19-20, FY 20-21 and FY 21-22, but will benefit providers of ABA therapy services by clarifying existing procedures and ensuring use of the appropriate CPT codes for billing.

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.