

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

**Pharmacy Benefits Management Program
Vaccine Administration and Fees
(LAC 50:XXIX.991)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:XXIX.991 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 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommended that the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing clarify language in the Medicaid State Plan regarding the inclusion of vaccine counseling as a pharmacy benefit under the Medical Assistance Program, when the criteria is met and documented. The department proposes to amend the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program in order to align the language in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* relative to vaccine administration and fees for Medicaid coverage with the CMS-approved State Plan amendment.

**Title 50
PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part XXIX. Pharmacy**

Chapter 9. Methods of Payment

Subchapter H. Vaccines

§991. Vaccine Administration Fees

A. Reimbursement to pharmacies for immunization administration (intramuscular, subcutaneous or intranasal) performed by qualified pharmacists, is a maximum of \$15.22. Counseling for vaccines as a pharmacy benefit, when the criteria is met and documented, is a maximum of \$19.72.

B. . . .

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 36:1783 (August 2010), amended LR 40:82 (January 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services, Financing, LR 43:1555 (August 2017), amended LR 46:345 (March 2020), LR 47:887 (July 2021), LR 50:

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 no impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

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

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 Kimberly Sullivan, JD, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. Sullivan is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on September 30, 2024.

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 September 9, 2024. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:961(B)(1) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on September 26, 2024 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, 2024. 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.

Michael Harrington, MBA, MA

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Pharmacy Benefits Management Program

Vaccine Administration and Fees

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

It is anticipated that this proposed rule will have a programmatic fiscal impact of \$874,709 for FY 24-25, \$847,439 for FY 25-26, and \$847,439 for FY 26-27. It is anticipated that \$540 (\$270 SGF and \$270 FED) will be expended in FY 24-25 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program in order to align the language in the Louisiana Administrative Code relative to vaccine administration and fees for Medicaid coverage with the CMS-approved State Plan amendment.

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

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will increase federal revenue collections by approximately \$1,797,772 FY 24-25, \$1,797,502 for FY 25-26, and \$1,797,502 for FY 26-27. It is anticipated \$270 will be collected in FY 24-25 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 amends the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program in order to align the language in the Louisiana Administrative Code relative to vaccine administration and fees for Medicaid coverage with the CMS-approved State Plan amendment. Implementation of this proposed rule will result in increased Medicaid payments to pharmacy providers, and small businesses of approximately \$2,644,941 in FY 24-25, \$2,644,941 in FY 25-26, and \$2,644,941 in FY 26-27.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This proposed rule has no known effect on competition and employment.