

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

**Rural Health Clinics
Alternative Payment Methodology
(LAC 50:XI.16703)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:XI.16703 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 currently provides reimbursement for services rendered by rural health clinics (RHCs) on a per visit basis under a prospective payment system (PPS) methodology. The department now proposes to amend the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for RHCs in order to implement an alternative payment methodology to allow RHCs to be reimbursed a separate PPS rate for behavioral health and dental services which is at the same rate as the existing all-inclusive encounter PPS rate when such services are rendered on the same day as a medical visit.

Title 50

**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part XI. Clinic Services
Subpart 15. Rural Health Clinics**

Chapter 167. Reimbursement Methodology

§16703. Alternate Payment Methodology

A. - D.2.a. ...

E. Effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2019, the Medicaid Program shall establish an alternative payment methodology for behavioral health services provided in RHCs by one of the following practitioners:

1. Physicians with a psychiatric specialty
2. Nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialist with a psychiatric specialty
3. Licensed clinical social workers
4. Clinical psychologist

F. The reimbursement for behavioral health services will equal the all-inclusive encounter PPS rate on file for fee for service on the date of service. This reimbursement will be in addition to any all-inclusive PPS rate on the same date for a medical/dental visit.

G. Dental services shall be reimbursed at the all-inclusive PPS rate on file for fee for service on the date of service. This reimbursement will be in addition to any all-inclusive PPS rate made on the same date for a medical/behavioral health visit.

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 32:1905 (October 2006), repromulgated LR 32:2267 (December 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:2632 (September 2011), LR 40:83 (January 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 44:1903 (October 2018), LR 44:XXX, (December 2018), 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 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 may have a positive impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972, as it increases access to services in RHCs and decreases transportation costs by allowing members to obtain medical, dental, and behavioral health services on the same day.

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 may 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 increases access to services in FQHCs and decreases transportation costs by allowing members to obtain medical, dental, and behavioral health services on the same day.

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 about the proposed Rule to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at close of business, 4:30 p.m., on January 29, 2019.

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing either by U.S. mail to the Office of the

Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629, fax to (225) 342-5568, or email to stanley.bordelon@la.gov; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 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 January 24, 2019 in Room 173 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 Stanley Bordelon at (225) 219-3454 after January 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