

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

**Healthcare Services Provider Fees
Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Providers
(LAC 48:I.4001)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 48:I.4001 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) requires that reimbursement for emergency ambulance services transition from the Full Medicaid Pricing program to an approved federal supplemental payment program by July 1, 2023. The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amended the provisions governing provider fees for emergency ground ambulance services in order to ensure that the language in the administrative Rule reflects current CMS requirements (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 49, Number 5). This proposed rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the July 1, 2023 Emergency Rule.

Title 48

PUBLIC HEALTH—GENERAL
Part I. General Administration
Subpart 1. General

Chapter 40. Provider Fees

§4001. Specific Fees

A. Definitions

Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Provider—a non-public, non-federal provider of emergency ground ambulance services.

B. – D. ...

E. Emergency Ground Ambulance Services. A fee shall be imposed on emergency ground ambulance services in accordance with R.S. 46:2626.

1. The assessment shall be a percentage fee, determined at the discretion of the secretary with the express and written mutual agreement of the emergency ground ambulance service providers subject to the assessment and which make up a minimum of 65 percent of all emergency ground ambulance services in the state of Louisiana.

a. the maximum fee allowable in any year shall not exceed the percentage of net patient service revenues permitted by federal regulation pursuant to 42 CFR 433.68 as determined by the department, as reported by the provider and subject to audit for the previous fiscal year of the provider.

The department will arrive at net patient services revenue by using net operating revenue as defined in R.S. 46:2626.

1.b. - 3.a. Repealed.

F. - F.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Chapter 45 of Title 46 as enacted in 1992, 46:2601-2605, redesignated as Chapter 47 of Title 46, containing R.S. 46:2621 to 46:2625 and P.L. 102-234, R.S. 36:254, and Article VII, Section 10.13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Management and Finance, LR 19:347 (March 1993), amended LR 20:51 (January 1994), LR 26:1478 (July 2000), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 33:100 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1887, 1888 (November 2016), LR 43:73 (January 2017), repromulgated LR 43:323 (February 2017), amended LR 44:1015 (June 2018), LR 44:1894 (October 2018), LR 45:1597 (November 2019), LR 49:263 (February 2023), LR 49:

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 Tara A. LeBlanc, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. LeBlanc is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on July 31, 2023.

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 July 10, 2023. 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 July 27, 2023 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 July 10, 2023. 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.

Stephen R. Russo, JD

Secretary

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Person Preparing Statement: Veronica Dent Dept.: Health
Phone: 342-3238 Office: Bureau of Health Services Financing
Return Address: P.O. Box 91030 Rule Title: Healthcare Services Provider Fees
Baton Rouge, LA Emergency Ground Ambulance
Service Providers

Date Rule
Takes Effect: July 1, 2023

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 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 22-23. It is anticipated that \$648 (\$324 SGF and \$324 FED) will be expended in FY 22-23 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)

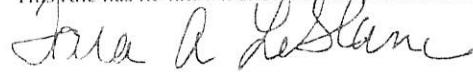
It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will increase statutory dedicated revenue collections by approximately \$6,596,856 for FY 23-24 and \$6,596,856 for FY 24-25, and will reduce a like amount of intergovernmental transfer revenues in those fiscal years. In addition, it is anticipated that federal revenue collections will increase by approximately \$324 for FY 22-23 and \$0 for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25. It is anticipated that \$324 will be collected in FY 22-23 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 July 1, 2023 Emergency Rule, which amended the provisions governing provider fees for emergency ground ambulance services in order to ensure that the administrative rule reflects the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that reimbursement for these services transition from the Full Medicaid Pricing program to an approved federal supplemental payment program. This proposed rule also revises the language in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* to be more generic so that an amendment is not required each year to match legislation. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in an increase in statutory dedicated revenue collections of approximately \$6,596,856 for FY 23-24 and \$6,596,856 for FY 24-25.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.


Signature of Agency Head or Designee

Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director
Typed Name & Title of Agency Head or Designee

06/08/2023
Date of Signature


Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

6/8/23
Date of Signature


Evan Brasel, Intern
Legislative Fiscal Officer

**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 July 1, 2023 Emergency Rule, which amended the provisions governing provider fees for emergency ground ambulance services in order to ensure that the administrative rule reflects the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that reimbursement for these services transition from the Full Medicaid Pricing program to an approved federal supplemental payment program. This proposed rule also revises the language in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* to be more generic so that an amendment is not required each year to match legislation.

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

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that reimbursement for emergency ambulance services transition from the Full Medicaid Pricing program to an approved federal supplemental payment program by July 1, 2023. The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amended the provisions governing provider fees for emergency ground ambulance services in order to ensure that the language in the administrative Rule reflects current CMS requirements (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 49, Number 5). This proposed rule is being promulgated to continue the provisions of the July 1, 2023 Emergency Rule.

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 22-23. In FY 22-23, \$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?

COSTS	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
Personal Services			
Operating Expenses	\$648	\$0	\$0
Professional Services			
Other Charges			
Equipment			
Major Repairs & Constr.			
TOTAL	\$648	\$0	\$0
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.

The expenses reflected above are the estimated increases in expenditures in the Medicaid program. In FY 22-23, \$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.

SOURCE	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
State General Fund	\$324	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	(\$6,596,856)	(\$6,596,856)
Dedicated	\$0	\$6,596,856	\$6,596,856
Federal Funds	\$324	\$0	\$0
Other (Specify)			
TOTAL	\$648	\$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. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will increase statutory dedicated revenue collections by approximately \$6,596,856 for FY 23-24 and \$6,596,856 for FY 24-25, and will reduce a like amount of intergovernmental transfer revenues in those fiscal years.

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 government.

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 unit 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 23	FY 24	FY 25
State General Fund			
Agency Self-Generated	\$0	(\$6,596,856)	(\$6,596,856)
Dedicated Funds*	\$0	\$6,596,856	\$6,596,856
Federal Funds	\$324	\$0	\$0
Local Funds			
TOTAL	\$324	\$0	\$0

*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.

The amounts reflected above are the estimated increases in statutory dedicated revenue collections, the reduction in a like amount of intergovernmental transfer revenues in those fiscal years, and the increase in federal revenue collections to the department. In FY 22-23, \$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.

The proposed rule continues the provisions of the July 1, 2023 Emergency Rule, which amended the provisions governing provider fees for emergency ground ambulance services in order to ensure that the administrative rule reflects the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that reimbursement for these services transition from the Full Medicaid Pricing program to an approved federal supplemental payment program. This proposed rule also revises the language in the *Louisiana Administrative Code* to be more generic so that an amendment is not required each year to match legislation.

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 result in an increase in statutory dedicated revenue collections of approximately \$6,596,856 for FY 23-24 and \$6,596,856 for FY 24-25.

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.