

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Nursing Facilities
Non-State Governmental Organizations
Supplemental Payments
(LAC 50:II.20029)**

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to adopt LAC 50:II.20029 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 and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing provides Medicaid reimbursement to non-state, government-owned or operated nursing facilities for long-term care services provided to Medicaid recipients.

The department now proposes to amend the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities in order to establish supplemental Medicaid payments for qualifying nursing facilities, owned or operated by a non-state governmental organization (NSGO), that have entered into an agreement with the department to participate. This action is being taken to promote the health and welfare of Medicaid recipients, ensure sufficient provider participation in the Nursing Facilities Program, and maintain adequate recipient access to nursing facility services.

Title 50

PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Part II. Nursing Facilities

Subpart 5. Reimbursement

Chapter 200. Reimbursement Methodology

§20029. Supplemental Payments

A. Non-State Governmental Organization Nursing Facilities

1. Effective for dates of service on or after January 20, 2016, any nursing facility that is owned or operated by a non-state governmental organization (NSGO), and that has entered into an agreement with the Department to participate, shall qualify for a Medicaid supplemental payment adjustment, in addition to the uniform Medicaid rates paid to nursing facilities. The only qualifying nursing facilities effective for January 20, 2016 are:

a. Gueydan Memorial Guest Home;

b. Lane Memorial Hospital Geriatric Long-Term Care (LTC);

c. LaSalle Nursing Home;

d. Natchitoches Parish Hospital LTC Unit; and

e. St. Helena Parish Nursing Home.

2. The supplemental Medicaid payment to a non-state, government-owned or operated nursing facility shall not exceed the facility's upper payment limit (UPL) pursuant to 42 CFR 447.272.

3. Payment Calculations. The Medicaid supplemental payment adjustment shall be calculated as follows. For each state

fiscal year (SFY), the Medicaid supplemental payment shall be calculated as the difference between:

a. the amount that the department reasonably estimates would have been paid to nursing facilities that are owned or operated by a NSGO using the Medicare Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs) prospective payment system. For each Medicaid resident that is in a nursing facility on the last day of a calendar quarter, the minimum data set (MDS) assessment that is in effect on that date is classified using the Medicare RUGs system. The Medicare rate applicable to the Medicare RUG, adjusted by the Medicare geographic wage index, equals the Medicaid resident's estimated Medicare rate. A simple average Medicare rate is determined for each nursing facility by summing the estimated Medicare rate for each Medicaid resident in the facility and dividing by total Medicaid residents in the facility; and

b. the Medicaid per diem rate for nursing facilities that are owned or operated by a NSGO. The Medicaid rate shall be adjusted to include laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy services to account for program differences in services between Medicaid and Medicare. The statewide average of laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy services is calculated using Medicaid cost report data.

4. Each participating nursing facility's upper payment limit (UPL) gap shall be determined as the difference between the estimated Medicare rate calculated in §20029.A.3.a and the adjusted Medicaid rate calculated in §20029.A.3.b.

a. Each facility's UPL gap is multiplied by the Medicaid days to arrive at its supplemental payment amount. Medicaid days are taken from the Medicaid cost report.

5. Frequency of Payments and Calculations

a. For each calendar quarter, an estimated interim supplemental payment will be calculated as described in this Section utilizing the latest Medicare RUGs and payment rates and Medicaid cost reports and available Medicaid payment rates. Payments will be made to each nursing facility that is owned or operated by a NSGO and that has entered into an agreement with the department to participate in the supplemental payment program.

b. Following the completion of the state's fiscal year, the final supplemental payment amount for the state fiscal year just ended will be calculated. These calculations will be based on the final Medicare RUGs and payment rates and the most recently reviewed Medicaid cost reports and Medicaid payment rates that cover the just ended state fiscal year period. The final supplemental payment calculations will be compared to the estimated interim supplemental payments, and the difference, if positive, will be paid to the NSGO, and if negative, collected from the NSGO.

6. No payment under this Section is dependent on any agreement or arrangement for provider or related entities to donate money or services to a governmental entity.

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 42:

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

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 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, but may reduce the total direct and

indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service and enhance the provider's ability to provide the same level of service since this proposed Rule establishes supplemental payments to providers for the same services they already render.

Interested persons may submit written comments to J. Ruth Kennedy, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Kennedy is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. A public hearing on this proposed Rule is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 118, Bienville Building, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. At that time all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to submit data, views or arguments either orally or in writing. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is 4:30 p.m. on the next business day following the public hearing.

Kathy H. Kliebert

Secretary