

NOTICE OF INTENT

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

**Pharmacy Benefit Management Program
Over-the-Counter Coverage
(LAC 50:XXIX.107)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:XXIX.107 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) issued guidance requesting that states consider removing the list of specific over-the-counter (OTC) drugs covered in the Medical Assistance Program from the Medicaid State Plan and include these OTC drugs in the provider manual. The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefit Management Program in order to remove references to specific OTC drugs from the *Louisiana Administrative Code* to align the administrative Rule with the Medicaid State Plan.

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

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§107. Prior Authorization

A. - C.3. ...

D. Drugs Excluded from Coverage. As provided by §1927(d)(2) of the Social Security Act, the following drugs are excluded from program coverage:

1. - 3. ...

4. select prescription vitamins and mineral products, except:

a. - n. ...

o. urinary PH modifiers (phosphorus, specifically K Phos Neutral and Phospha Neutral);and

5. select over-the-counter covered outpatient drugs as determined by the department.

E. - E.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S, 36:254, Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and the 1995-96 General Appropriations Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:1053 (June 2006), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 43:1180 (June 2017), LR 43:1553 (August 2017), amended LR 45:665

(May 2019), LR 46:33 (January 2020), LR 48:1582 (June 2022), 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 a 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 October 30, 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 October 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 October 26, 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 October 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: Lyrice Johnson Dept.: Health

Phone: 342-6375 Office: Bureau of Health Services Financing

Return
Address: P.O. Box 91030 Rule
Title: Pharmacy Benefit Management
Baton Rouge LA Program
Over-the-Counter Coverage

Date Rule
Takes Effect: December 20, 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 23-24. It is anticipated that \$540 (\$270 SGF and \$270 FED) will be expended in FY 23-24 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 23-24. It is anticipated that \$270 will be collected in FY 23-24 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 Benefit Management Program in order to remove references to specific over the counter (OTC) drugs covered in the Medical Assistance Program from the *Louisiana Administrative Code*. This action is a result of guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting that states consider removing the list of covered OTC drugs from the Medicaid State Plan and include these items in the provider manual, which requires a corresponding change to the administrative rule. Implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs to pharmacy providers, small businesses, or the Medicaid Program in FY 23-24, FY 24-25, and FY 25-26, since this rule does not change the drugs that are currently covered in the Medicaid Program.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.

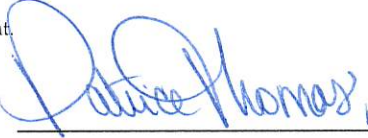


Signature of Agency Head or Designee

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

9/7/2023

Date of Signature



Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

9/08/2023

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 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 amends the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefit Management Program in order to remove references to specific over the counter (OTC) drugs covered in the Medical Assistance Program from the *Louisiana Administrative Code*. This action is a result of guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting that states consider removing the list of covered OTC drugs from the Medicaid State Plan and include these items in the provider manual, which requires a corresponding change to the administrative rule.

- 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) issued guidance requesting that states consider removing the list of specific over-the-counter (OTC) drugs covered in the Medical Assistance Program from the Medicaid State Plan and include these OTC drugs in the provider manual. The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefit Management Program in order to remove references to specific OTC drugs from the *Louisiana Administrative Code* to align the administrative Rule with the Medicaid State Plan.

- 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 23-24. In FY 23-24, \$540 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 24	FY 25	FY 26
Personal Services			
Operating Expenses	\$540	\$0	\$0
Professional Services			
Other Charges			
Equipment			
Major Repairs & Constr.			
TOTAL	\$540	\$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.

In FY 23-24, \$540 is included 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 24	FY 25	FY 26
State General Fund	\$270	\$0	\$0
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated			
Federal Funds	\$270	\$0	\$0
Other (Specify)			
TOTAL	\$540	\$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 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 24	FY 25	FY 26
State General Fund			
Agency Self-Generated			
Dedicated Funds*			
Federal Funds	\$270	\$0	\$0
Local Funds			
TOTAL	\$270	\$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.

In FY 23-24, \$270 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.

This proposed rule amends the provisions governing the Pharmacy Benefit Management Program in order to remove references to specific over the counter (OTC) drugs covered in the Medical Assistance Program from the *Louisiana Administrative Code*. This action is a result of guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting that states consider removing the list of covered OTC drugs from the Medicaid State Plan and include these items in the provider manual, which requires a corresponding change to the administrative rule.

- 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.

Implementation of this proposed rule will not result in costs to pharmacy providers, small businesses, or the Medicaid Program in FY 23-24, FY 24-25, and FY 25-26, since this rule does not change the drugs that are currently covered in the Medicaid Program.

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.