



# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health Office of the Secretary

August 10, 2020

## Via Statutorily Prescribed Email

To: The Honorable Fred H. Mills, Jr., Chairman, Senate Health & Welfare Committee

The Honorable Larry Bagley, Chairman, House Health & Welfare Committee

From: Dr. Courtney N. Phillips Cendy Rives

Secretary

Second Report on Proposed Amendments to LAC 50:I.Chapter 21 - Dental Re:

Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan

Pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, submits its second report regarding the proposed Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan rule amendment.

A Notice of Intent on the proposed amendments was published in the June 20, 2020 issue of the Louisiana Register (LR 46:812). No written comments were received and there was no request for a public hearing were received during the notice period. Because there were no requests for a public hearing, one was not held for these proposed amendments. Attached with this report are copies of the written comments for the record. Additionally, no substantive changes were made to the proposed amendments since the report provide for in R.S. 49:968B-C was submitted.

Unless otherwise directed, the Department anticipates adopting the June 20, 2020, Notice of Intent when it is published as a final rule in the September 20, 2020, issue of the Louisiana Register.

Please contact Kevin Guillory, at kevin.guillory@la.gov, if you have any questions or require additional information about this matter.

Cc: Michael Boutte, Deputy Medicaid Director, Louisiana Department of Health Kevin Guillory, Medicaid Program Manager, Louisiana Department of Health Veronica Dent, Medicaid Program Manager, Louisiana Department of Health Anita Dupuy, Legislative Liaison, Louisiana Department of Health Catherine Brindley, Editor, Louisiana Register, Office of the State Register

#### NOTICE OF INTENT

## Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing

## Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan (LAC 50:1.Chapter 21)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services

Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:I.Chapter 21 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 proposes to amend the provisions governing the dental benefits prepaid ambulatory health plan in order to allow for more than one dental benefits plan manager to service Medicaid enrollees and to allow for the department to contract with a vendor for enrollment broker services for member enrollment into one of the available plans.

#### Title 50

## PUBLIC HEALTH - MEDICAL ASSISTANCE Part 1. Administration

Subpart 3. Managed Care for Physical and Behavioral Health
Chapter 21. Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan
\$2101. General Provisions

- Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing shall adopt provisions to establish a comprehensive system of delivery for dental services covered under the Medicaid Program. The dental benefits plan shall be administered under the authority of a 1915(b) waiver by implementing a prepaid ambulatory health plan (PAHP) which shall be responsible for the necessary operational and administrative functions to ensure adequate service coordination and delivery.
- B. All Medicaid recipients except those residing in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs/IID) that are receiving dental services through the fee-for-service system will receive dental services administered by a dental benefit plan manager (DBPM).
- 1. The number of DBPMs shall be no more than required to meet the Medicaid enrollee capacity requirements and ensure choice for Medicaid recipients.

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 40:784

(April 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 46:

#### §2103. Participation Requirements

- A. ...
- B. A DBPM must:
  - 1. -5. ...
- 6. is without an actual or perceived conflict of interest that would interfere or give the appearance of impropriety or of interfering with the contractual duties and obligations under this contract or any other contract with DHHLDH, and any and all applicable DHHLDH written policies. Conflict of interest shall include, but is not limited to, the contractor serving, as the Medicaid fiscal intermediary contractor for DHHLDH;
- 7. isbe awarded a contract with DHHLDH, and successfully completed the readiness review prior to the start date of operations; and

B.8. - I.3. ...

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 40:784

(April 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 46:

§2105. Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan Responsibilities

A. - A.1. ...

- 2. A DBPM shall possess the expertise and resources to ensure the delivery of dental benefits and services to members and to assist in the coordination of covered dental services, as specified in the terms of the contract.
- 3. A DBPM shall have written policies and procedures governing its operation as specified in the contract and department issued guidance.
- 4. A DBPM shall not discriminate against enrollees on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, age, health status or need for dental services, and shall not use any policy or practice that has the effect of discriminating on any such basis.
- 5. The DBPM shall abide by all enrollment and disenrollment policy and procedures as outlined in the contract developed by the department.
- broker who will be responsible for the enrollment and disensolment process for DBPM shall possess the expertise and resources to ensure the delivery of dental benefits and services to members and to assist in the coordination of covered dental services, as specified in the terms of the contract.

  participants. The enrollment broker shall be:

1. the primary contact for enrollees regarding the DBPM enrollment and disenrollment process, and shall assist the recipient to enroll in a DBFM; 2. the only authorized entity, other than the department, to assist an enrollee recipient in the selection of a DBPM; and 3. responsible for notifying all DBPM members of their enrollment and disenrollment rights and responsibilities within the timeframe specified in the contract. C. A-Enrollment Period. The annual enrollment of a DBPM shall have written policies and procedures governing its operation as specified in the contract and department issued quidance.member shall be for a period of up to 12 months from the date of enrollment, contingent upon his/her continued Medicaid eligibility. A member shall remain enrolled in the DBPM until: 1. LDH or its enrollment broker approves the member's written, electronic or oral request to disenroll or transfer to another DBPM for cause; or 2. the annual open enrollment period or after the lock-in period; or 3. the member becomes ineligible for Medicaid and/or

the DBPM program.

A DBPM shall not discriminate against enrollees on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, age, health status or need for dental services, and shall not use any policy or practice that has the effect of discriminating on any such basis. Automatic Assignment Process 1. LDH shall establish an auto-assignment process for potential enrollees who do not request enrollment in a specified DBPM, or who cannot be enrolled into the requested DBPM for reasons including, but not limited to, the DBPM having reached its enrollment capacity limit or as a result of LDHinitiated sanctions. DEPM automatic assignments shall take into consideration factors including, but not limited to: a. assigning members of family units to the same DEPM. If multiple DBPM linkages exist within the household, the enrollee shall be enrolled to the DBPM of the youngest household enrollee; b. existing provider-enrollee relationships; or c. previous DBPM-enrollee relationship. 3. Auto-assignments on any basis other than household enrollment in DBPM will not be made to a DBPM whose enrollee share is at or above 60 percent of the total statewide

membership.

- E. A Voluntary Selection of DBPM shall be required to provide service authorization, referrals, coordination, and/or assistance in scheduling the covered dental services as specified in the terms of the contract. for New Enrollees
- 1. Potential enrollees shall be given an opportunity to choose a DBPM at the time of application. Once the potential enrollee is determined eligible, their choice of DBPM shall be transmitted to the enrollment broker.
- 2. During the 90 days following the date of the enrollee's initial enrollment into a DBPM, the enrollee shall be allowed to request disenrollment without cause by submitting an oral or written request to the enrollment broker.
- 3. All eligible enrollees shall be provided an annual open enrollment period at least once every 12 months thereafter.
- 4. All enrollees shall be given the opportunity to choose a DBPM at the start of a new DBFM contract either through the regularly scheduled open enrollment period or special enrollment period.
- F. The DBPM shall establish and implement a quality assessment and performance improvement program as specified in the terms of the contract and department issued guidance. Annual Open Enrollment

- all DBPM members to retain or select a new DBPM during an annual open enrollment period. The enrollment broker will mail a reenrollment offer prior to each annual enrollment period to the DBPM member. Each DBPM member shall receive information and the offer of assistance with making informed choices about the participating DBPMs and the availability of choice counseling.
- 2. The enrollment broker shall provide the individual with information on each DBPM from which they may select.
- annulses shall be given 60 calendar days to either remain in their existing DBPM or select a new DBPM.
- G. A DBPM shall develop and maintain a utilization
  management program including policies and procedures with
  defined structures and processes as specified in the terms of
  the contract and department issued guides. Selection or Automatic
  Assignment of a Primary Dental Provider for Mandatory
  Populations for All Covered Services
- dental provider (PDP) automatic assignment methodology in accordance with the department's requirements for the assignment of a PDP to an enrollee who:

- a. does not make a PDP selection within 30 calendar days of enrollment to the DBPM;
- c. selects a PDP within the DBPM that has reached their maximum physician/patient ratio; or
- d. selects a PDP within the DBPM that has restrictions/limitations (e.g., pediatric only practice).
- 2. Assignment shall be made to a PDP with whom the enrollee has a provider-beneficiary relationship. If there is no provider-beneficiary relationship, the enrollee may be auto-assigned to a provider who is the assigned PDP for a household family member enrolled in the DBPM. If other household family members do not have an assigned PDP, auto-assignment shall be made to a provider with whom a family member has a provider-beneficiary relationship.
- 3. If there is no enrollee or household family provider-beneficiary relationship, enrollees shall be auto-assigned to a PDP, based on criteria such as age, geographic proximity, and spoken languages.
- 4. An enrollee shall be allowed to request at any time, verbally or in writing, to change his or her PDP and the DBPM must agree to grant the request.
- H. The DBPM must have administrative and management arrangements or procedures, including a mandatory compliance plan, that are designed to guard against fraud and abuse. The

DBPM shall	comply with all state and federal laws and
regulations	relating to fraud, abuse, and waste in the Medicaid
<del>programs as</del>	well all requirements set forth in the contract and
department	issued guidance.Disenrollment and Change of Dental
Benefit Pla	an Manager
	. An enrollee may request disenrollment from the
DBPM as fol	ilows:
*	a. for cause, at any time. The following
circumstand	ces are cause for disenrollment:
3	i. the DBPM does not, because of moral or
religious o	objections, cover the service the enrollee seeks;
	ii. the enrollee needs related services to
be performe	ed at the same time; not all related services are
available v	within the DBFM and the enrollee's PDP or another
provider de	etermines that receiving the services separately would
subject the	e enrollee to unnecessary risk;
	iii. the contract between the DBPM and LDH
is termina	ted;
	iv. poor quality of care rendered by the
DBPM as de	termined by LDH;
	v. lack of access to DBPM covered services
as determin	ned by LDH; or
	vi. any other reason deemed to be valid by
T.DH and/or	its agent: or

b. without cause for the following reasons:
i. During the ninety 90 days following the
date of the beneficiary's initial enrollment into the DBPM or
during the 90 days following the date the enrollment broker
sends the beneficiary notice of that enrollment, whichever is
later;
ii. upon automatic re-enrollment under 42
CFR \$438.56(g), if a temporary loss of Medicaid eligibility has
caused the beneficiary to miss the annual open enrollment
opportunity;
iii. when LDH imposes the intermediate
sanction provisions specified in 42 CFR §438.702(a)(3); or
iv. after LDH notifies the DBPM that it
intends to terminate the contract as provided by 42 CFR
§438.722.
I. A DBPM shall collect data on enrollees and provider
characteristics and on services furnished to members through an
encounter data system as specified in the contract and all
department issued guidance. Involuntary Disenrollment
1. The DBPM may request involuntary disenrollment of
an enrollee if the enrollee's utilization of services
constitutes fraud, waste, and/or abuse such as misusing or
loaning the enrollee's ID card to another person to obtain

- and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).
- 2. The DBPM shall submit disenrollment requests to the enrollment broker, in a format and manner to be determined by LDH.
- 3. The DBPM shall ensure that involuntary disenrollment documents are maintained in an identifiable enrollee record.
- of an adverse change in physical or mental health status or because of the enrollee's health diagnosis, utilization of medical services, diminished mental capacity, preexisting medical condition, refusal of medical care or diagnostic testing, attempt to exercise his/her rights under the DBPM's grievance system, or attempt to exercise his/her right to change, for cause, the primary care provider that he/she has chosen or been assigned. Further, in accordance with 42 CFR \$438.56, the DBPM shall not request disentalment because of an enrollee's uncooperative or disruptive behavior resulting from his or her special needs, except when his or her continued enrollment seriously impairs the DBPM's ability to furnish services to either this particular enrollee or other enrollees.
- 5. The DBPM shall not request disenrollment for reasons other than those stated in the contract with LDH. In

accordance with 42 CFR \$438.56(b)(3), LDH shall ensure that the DBPM is not requesting disenrollment for other reasons by reviewing and rendering decisions on all disenrollment request forms submitted to the enrollment broker. 6. All disenrollment requests shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the final decision is at the sole discretion of LDH or its designee. All decisions are final and not subject to the dispute resolution process by the DBPM. 7. When the DBPM's request for involuntary disenrollment is approved by LDH, the DBPM shall notify the enrollee in writing of the requested disenrollment. The notice shall include: a. the reason for the disenrollment; b. the effective date; c. an instruction that the enrollee choose a new DBPM; and d. a statement that if the enrollee disagrees with the decision to disenroll, the enrollee has a right to submit a request for a state fair hearing. 8. Until the enrollee is disenrolled by the enrollment broker, the DBPM shall continue to be responsible for the provision of all DEPM covered services to the enrollee.

provider monitoring to ensure: required to provide service

A DBPM shall be responsible for conducting routine

authorization, referrals, coordination, and/or assistance in scheduling the covered dental services as specified in the terms of the contract.

- continued access to dental care for eligible
   Medicaid recipients; and
- 2. compliance with departmental and contract requirements.1. 2. Repealed.
- K. A The DBPM shall not engage the services of a provider who is in non-payment status with the department or is excluded from participation in federal health care programs (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, etc.).establish and implement a quality assessment and performance improvement program as specified in the terms of the contract and department issued guidance.
- L. Dental records A DBPM shall be maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. These records shall be safeguarded in such a manner as to protect confidentiality and avoid inappropriate disclosure according to federal and state law. develop and maintain a utilization management program including policies and procedures with defined structures and processes as specified in the terms of the contract and department issued guides.
- M. The DBPM shall provide both member and provider services in accordance with the terms of the contract and

management arrangements or procedures, including a mandatory compliance plan, that are designed to guard against fraud and abuse. The DBPM shall comply with all state and federal laws and regulations relating to fraud, abuse, and waste in the Medicaid programs as well all requirements set forth in the contract and department issued guidance.

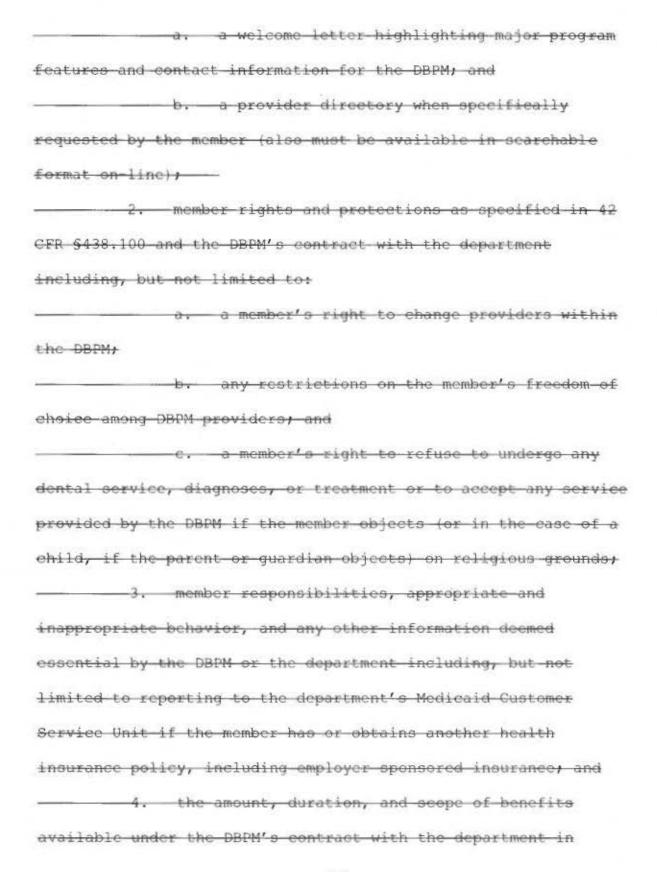
1. The DBPM shall submit provider manuals and provider directory to the department for approval prior to distribution, annually and subsequent to any revisions.

notice to the department of any proposed material changes to the member handbooks and/or provider manuals.

b. After approval has been received from the department, the DBPM must provide a minimum of 30 days' notice to the members and/or providers of any proposed material changes to the required member education materials and/or provider manuals.1. - 1b. Repealed.

N. Member education materials shall include, but not be limited to:A DBPM shall collect data on enrollees and provider characteristics and on services furnished to members through an encounter data system as specified in the contract and all department issued guidance.

1. a welcome packet including, but not limited to:



sufficient d	letail t	to ensure that members understand the benefits
to which the	y are o	entitled, including, but not limited to:
	<del>a,</del>	information about oral health education and
promotion pr	ograms;	F.
	b	the procedures for obtaining benefits,
including pr	ior aut	thorization requirements and benefit limits;
	е.	how members may obtain benefits, including
emergency se	rvices,	, from out-of-network providers;
	—d.	the policy on referrals for specialty care;
and		
	е.	the extent to which, and how, after-hour
services are	provi	<del>ded;</del>
5.	. inf	ormation to call the Medicaid Customer Service
Unit toll for	ree tel	ephone number or visit a local Medicaid
eligibility	office	to report changes in parish of residence,
mailing add	ress or	family size changes;
6-	. a d	escription of the DBPM's member services and
the toll-fre	ee tele	phone number, fax telephone number, e-mail
address and	mailin	g address to contact DBPM's member services
<del>department</del> +		
7	. ins	tructions on how to request multi-lingual
interpretat:	ion and	translation services when needed at no cost
to the member	er. Thi	s information shall be included in all
versions of	the ha	ndbook in English, Spanish and Vietnamese; and

- 8. grievance, appeal and state fair hearing procedures and time frames as described in 42 CFR \$438.400 through \$438.424 and in the DBPM's contract with the department. 1. 8. Repealed.
- O. The provider manual shall include but not be limited to:A DBPM shall be responsible for conducting routine provider monitoring to ensure:
- description of the DBPM continued access to dental care for eligible Medicaid recipients; and
- 2. core dental benefits and services the DBPM must provide; compliance with departmental and contract requirements.
- 3. emergency dental service responsibilities;

  4. policies and procedures that cover the provider complaint system. This information shall include, but not be
- a. specific instructions regarding how to contact the DBPM to file a provider complaint; and

limited to:

- b. which individual(s) has the authority to
  review a provider complaint;
- 5. information about the DBPM's grievance system, that the provider may file a grievance or appeal on behalf of the member with the member's written consent, the time frames and requirements, the availability of assistance in filing, the

toll-free telephone numbers and the member's right to request
continuation of services while utilizing the grievance system;
6. medical necessity standards as defined by DHH an
practice guidelines;
- 7. practice protocols, including guidelines
pertaining to the treatment of chronic and complex conditions,
8. primary care dentist responsibilities;
- 9. other provider responsibilities under the
subcontract with the DBPM;
- 10. prior authorization and referral procedures;
11. dental records standards;
- 12. claims submission protocols and standards,
including instructions and all information necessary for a clea
and complete claim and samples of clean and complete claims;
13. DBPM prompt pay requirements;
- 14. notice that provider complaints regarding claims
payment shall be sent to the DBPM;
15. quality performance requirements; and
16. provider rights and responsibilities.3 16.
Repealed.
P. The A DBPM shall not engage the services of a provide
directory for members shall be developed in two formats who is

in non-payment status with the department or is excluded from

Medicaid, CHIP, etc.). 1. a hard copy directory for members and, upon request, potential members; and a web-based online directory for members and the public.1. - 2. Repealed. Q. Dental records shall be maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. These records shall be safeguarded in such a manner as to protect confidentiality and avoid inappropriate disclosure according to federal and state law. R. The DBPM shall provide both member and provider services in accordance with the terms of the contract and department issued quides. 1. The DEPM shall submit provider manuals and provider directory to the department for approval prior to distribution, annually and subsequent to any revisions. a. The DBPM must provide a minimum of 60 days' notice to the department of any proposed material changes to the member handbooks and/or provider manuals. b. After approval has been received from the department, the DBPM must provide a minimum of 30 days' notice

participation in federal health care programs (i.e., Medicare,

to the members and/or providers of any proposed material changes

to the required member education materials and/or provider manuals. S. Member education materials shall include, but not be limited to: 1. a welcome packet including, but not limited to: a. a welcome letter highlighting major program features and contact information for the DEFM; and b. a provider directory when specifically requested by the member (also must be available in searchable format on-line); 2. member rights and protections as specified in 42 CFR §438.100 and the DBPM's contract with the department including, but not limited to: a. a member's right to change providers within the DBPM; b. any restrictions on the member's freedom of choice among DBPM providers; and c. a member's right to refuse to undergo any dental service, diagnoses, or treatment or to accept any service provided by the DBPM if the member objects (or in the case of a child, if the parent or guardian objects) on religious grounds; 3. member responsibilities, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, and any other information deemed essential by the DBPM or the department including, but not

limited to reporting to the department's Medicaid Customer
Service Unit if the member has or obtains another health
insurance policy, including employer sponsored insurance; and
4. the amount, duration, and scope of benefits
available under the DBPM's contract with the department in
sufficient detail to ensure that members understand the benefits
to which they are entitled, including, but not limited to:
a. information about oral health education and
promotion programs;
b. the procedures for obtaining benefits,
including prior authorization requirements and benefit limits;
c. how members may obtain benefits, including
emergency services, from out-of-network providers;
d. the policy on referrals for specialty care;
<u>and</u>
e. the extent to which, and how, after-hour
services are provided;
5. information to call the Medicaid Customer Service
Unit toll-free telephone number or visit a local Medicaid
eligibility office to report changes in parish of residence,
mailing address or family size changes;
6. a description of the DBPM's member services and
the toll-free telephone number, fax telephone number, e-mail

address and mailing address to contact DBPM's member services
department;
7. instructions on how to request multi-lingual
interpretation and translation services when needed at no cost
to the member. This information shall be included in all
versions of the handbook in English, Spanish and Vietnamese; and
8. grievance, appeal and state fair hearing
procedures and time frames as described in 42 CFR \$438.400
through \$438.424 and in the DBPM's contract with the department
T. The provider manual shall include but not be limited
<u>to:</u>
1. description of the DBPM;
2. core dental benefits and services the DBPM must
provide;
3. emergency dental service responsibilities;
4. policies and procedures that cover the provider
complaint system. This information shall include, but not be
limited to:
a. specific instructions regarding how to
contact the DBPM to file a provider complaint; and
b. which individual(s) has the authority to
review a provider complaint;
5. information about the DBFM's grievance system,
that the provider may file a drievance or appeal on behalf of

the member with the member's written consent, the time frames
and requirements, the availability of assistance in filing, the
toll-free telephone numbers and the member's right to request
continuation of services while utilizing the grievance system;
6. medical necessity standards as defined by LDH and
<pre>practice guidelines;</pre>
7. practice protocols, including guidelines
pertaining to the treatment of chronic and complex conditions;
8. primary care dentist responsibilities;
9. other provider responsibilities under the
subcontract with the DBPM;
10. prior authorization and referral procedures;
11. dental records standards;
12. claims submission protocols and standards,
including instructions and all information necessary for a clean
and complete claim and samples of clean and complete claims;
13. DBPM prompt pay requirements;
14, notice that provider complaints regarding claims
payment shall be sent to the DBFM;
15. quality performance requirements; and
16. provider rights and responsibilities.
U. The provider directory for members shall be developed
in two formate.

- -1. a hard copy directory for members and, upon request, potential members; and
- 2. a web-based online directory for members and the public.

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 40:784

(April 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR:

### §2109. Benefits and Services

- A. D. ...
- E. Utilization Management
- 1. The DBPM shall develop and maintain policies and procedures with defined structures and processes for a utilization management (UM) program that incorporates utilization review and service authorization, which include, at minimum, procedures to evaluate medical necessity and the process used to review and approve the provision of dental services. The DBPM shall submit an electronic copy of the UM policies and procedures to DHH—LDH for written approval within thirty calendar days from the date the contract is signed by the DBPM, but no later than prior to the readiness review, annually thereafter, and prior to any revisions.

2. - 10. ...

11. The DBPM shall submit written policies and processes for DHH\_LDH approval, within thirty calendar days, but no later than prior to the readiness review, of the contract signed by the DBPM, on how the core dental benefits and services the DBPM provides ensure:

11.a. - 17. ...

18. The DBPM shall report fraud and abuse information identified through the UM program to DHH'sLDH's Program Integrity Unit.

19. - 19.g. ...

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 40:786 (April 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR:

#### 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 positive impact on family functioning, stability or autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972 as it is expected have a positive effect as the availability of multiple

plans will provide families with a greater choice of available providers and services.

#### 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 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 is expected have a positive effect as the availability of multiple plans will provide families with a greater choice of available providers and services.

#### Small Business Analysis

In compliance with Act 820 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have a no impact on small businesses, as described in R.S. 49:965.2 et seq.

#### 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 Ruth Johnson, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. Johnson is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on July 30, 2020.

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, 2020. 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 July 30, 2020 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, 2020. 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.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary