

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

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

**Emergency Telemedicine
(LAC 50:I.505)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopts LAC 50:I.505 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) (1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which adopted provisions governing coverage of telemedicine during a declared disaster (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 46, Number 4). This Emergency Rule is being promulgated in order to continue the provisions of the March 16, 2020 Emergency Rule. This action is being taken to promote the health and welfare of Medicaid recipients by ensuring continued and expanded access to telemedicine services during a declared emergency.

Effective March 14, 2021, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopts provisions governing the coverage of telemedicine during a declared emergency.

Title 50
PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part I. Administration
Subpart 1. General Provisions

Chapter 5. Telemedicine

§505. Telemedicine in the Event of an Emergency

A. In the event of a declared emergency, Medicaid may temporarily cover services provided through the use of an interactive audio telecommunications system, without the requirement of video, if such action is determined to be necessary to ensure sufficient services are available to meet recipients' needs.

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 47: 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.

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 Emergency Rule. A copy

of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary