

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

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

**Home Health Program
Rehabilitation Services
Reimbursement Rate Increase
(LAC 50:XIII.Chapter 9)**

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing repeals the provisions of the June 20, 1997, May 20, 2001, and the May 20, 2004 Rules governing rehabilitation services and adopts LAC 50:XIII.Chapter 9 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 and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing provides Medicaid reimbursement for rehabilitation services covered in the Home Health Program. In compliance with a court order from the *Melanie Chisholm, et al vs. Kathy Kliebert* class action litigation, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend the provisions governing rehabilitation services covered under the Home Health Program in order to increase the reimbursement rates for physical and occupational

therapy services for recipients under the age of 21, and to discontinue the automatic enhanced rate adjustment for these services. This Emergency Rule also repeals the June 20, 1997, May 20, 2001, and the May 20, 2004 Rules governing rehabilitation services covered in the Home Health Program, and revises and repromulgates the provisions in a codified format for inclusion in the *Louisiana Administrative Code*.

This action is being taken to promote the health and welfare of Medicaid recipients by ensuring continued access to therapy services in the Home Health Program. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will increase expenditures in the Medicaid Program by approximately \$2,535 for state fiscal year 2013-2014.

Effective February 13, 2014, the department amends the provisions governing the Home Health Program in order to increase the reimbursement rates for physical and occupational therapy services provided to recipients under the age of 21, and to discontinue the automatic enhanced rate adjustment for these services.

Title 50

**PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
Part XIII. Home Health
Subpart 1. Home Health Services**

Chapter 9. Rehabilitation Services

§901. General Provisions

A. The Medicaid Program provides coverage for rehabilitation services rendered in the Home Health Program.

Home Health rehabilitation services include:

1. physical therapy;
2. occupational therapy; and
3. speech/language therapy.

B. All home health rehabilitation services must be medically necessary and prior authorized.

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:

§903. Reserved.

§905. Reimbursement Methodology

A. The Medicaid Program provides reimbursement for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech/language therapy covered under the Home Health Program.

B. Effective for dates of service on or after February 13, 2014, reimbursement for physical and occupational therapy services shall be 85 percent of the 2013 Medicare published rate. There shall be no automatic enhanced rate adjustment for physical and occupational therapy services.

C. Speech/language therapy services shall continue to be reimbursed at the flat fee in place as of February 13, 2014 and

in accordance with the Medicaid published fee schedule for speech/language therapy services provided in the Home Health Program.

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:

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 J. Ruth Kennedy, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. She 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.

Kathy H. Kliebert

Secretary