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SECRETARY

# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Behavioral Services Providers & Hospitals**

**FROM: TASHEKA DUKES, RN  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
LDH Health Standards Section**

**RE: Act 737 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session**

**DATE: October 25, 2024**

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This memorandum serves to provide notice of the requirements of Act 737 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session (Act 737). Act 737, to be codified at La. R.S. 28:4 and La. R.S. 28:53.1, provide the following:

*§4. Behavioral healthcare information; records*

*A. A healthcare professional or healthcare provider that provides behavioral health services shall accept documents, records, photos, testimonials, and other significant health-related collateral information provided by a patient's family member, caregiver, friend, or healthcare professional. The materials shall be included in a patient's medical record.*

*B. The provisions of this Section shall not apply in the event the healthcare professional or healthcare provider believes that acceptance and inclusion of the information in the medical record is not relevant to the patients' care or treatment.*

\* \* \*

*§53.1. Discharge plan; healthcare provider notification requirements*

*If a patient is admitted for inpatient behavioral healthcare services pursuant to an emergency certificate issued in*

*accordance with R.S. 28:53, the individual who is responsible for discharge planning at the healthcare facility where the patient has been admitted shall make a reasonable effort to do all of the following:*

*(1) Provide written or telephonic notification to any healthcare professional that is currently providing behavioral health services to the patient, if known, of the date and time the patient is scheduled to be discharged unless the patient objects to that information being communicated.*

*(2) Provide written or telephonic notification within twenty-four hours of discharge to any healthcare professional that the patient is being referred to for follow-up behavioral health services. The healthcare professional that the patient is being referred to shall be provided with a summary of the patient's medical history and any current mental health conditions the patient is suffering from at the time of discharge. The summary shall be transmitted no later than the date the patient has been scheduled for follow-up behavioral services.*

*(3) Provide to the patient educational documents published by the Louisiana Department of Health prior to or at the time of discharge.*

A copy of the patient educational documents published by LDH pursuant to Act 737 are provided in the links below under Memos:

[Hospitals | La Dept. of Health](#)

[Behavioral Health Service Provider | La Dept. of Health](#)

DocuSigned by:

*Tasheka Dukes*

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Tasheka Dukes, RN

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Health Standards

Louisiana Department of Health