



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

March 18, 2010

Dear Administrator:

Re: Payment of Hospice Related Charges

It has come to our attention that many hospice providers are refusing to pay for charges related to hospice services. Claims have been submitted to our fiscal intermediary, Unisys and have gone through physician review. They have been determined to be hospice related.

The Medicaid Hospice Services Manual clearly states in Section 7.6 that as the recipient's hospice provider you are responsible for either providing or paying for all covered services related to the treatment of the recipient's terminal illness. In addition, the *Louisiana Register*, Title 50, PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, Part XV., Services for Special Population, Subpart 3, Hospice, Chapter 39, SS 3901, A9 states: "**The hospice is responsible for providing any and all services indicated in the plan of care as necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions.**" (emphasis added) A patient's terminal illness is not necessarily one diagnosis but can be an accumulation of several related conditions or diagnoses contributing to the terminally ill state of an individual. As you accept responsibility for a terminally ill patient, you are accepting the entire patient and all comorbidities associated with that patient. We ask that you review your manual, paying close attention to the sections dealing with provider responsibilities, covered services, monitoring and sanctions.

Refusing to pay for these charges or any charges submitted from a non-hospice provider may render you out of compliance with your provider agreement. Non-compliance with your provider agreement could place you in a position of having sanctions imposed which may include denial or revocation of enrollment, withholding of payments, exclusion from the program, recovery of overpayments, imposing administrative fines or other sanctions.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have further questions, please contact Rate and Audit Section at 225-342-6116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Gregory".

Don Gregory  
Medicaid Director

CC: Program Integrity  
DHH Legal Services