

**Bobby Jindal**  
GOVERNOR



**Bruce D. Greenstein**  
SECRETARY

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

September 23, 2010

Mr. Norm Nichols  
Executive Account Manager  
Molina Corporation  
P. O. Box 3396  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

FIMS # 1840 TC/PH

Re: Precertification for OB Care and Delivery

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Since the August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 implementation of the changes to the precertification process for obstetrics care and delivery we have received requests from providers to clarify the department's policy regarding the days approved.

The RA message below is intended to provide clarification regarding the department's decision to approve deliveries via the claims processing edit when certain conditions exist. This edit was implemented to remove administrative burden and was not intended to provide approval of hospital days where medical necessity does not exist for continued hospitalization.

The following RA message should be published in the RA of Tuesday September 28, 2010 and should be repeated for the subsequent three weeks. It should also be included in the next Provider Update.

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 27 2010  
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**Attention Hospital and Physician Providers:  
Provider Notice for Precertification for OB Care and Delivery**

The precertification edit for OB Care and Delivery that went into effect August 30, 2010 was implemented to remove the administrative burden placed on the providers to obtain approval of days that are mandated by federal law. The 2 days approved for a vaginal delivery and 4 days approved for a cesarean section are in accordance with federal guidelines pertaining to the Newborn Protection Act. Days beyond the 2 and 4 days that are approved in accordance with the Newborn Protection Act via the precertification edit are to account for admissions or deliveries late in the evening. Any days approved via the claims processing edit that are greater than the 2 and 4 days mandated by federal guidelines may be subject to medical necessity review retrospectively. Facility specific length of stay reports are generated monthly to compare delivery LOS data pre and post implementation of this policy. Medical necessity should guide the physician decision making process related to discharge and patients should be kept in the hospital for medical necessity only. The precertification edit is not intended to provide approval of hospital days where medical necessity does not exist for continued hospitalization.

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Please refer any questions or concerns to Paige Hargrove at 342-6415.

Sincerely,



Kyle Viator  
Medicaid Deputy Director.

KV/ph

cc: Don Gregory  
Darla Ratcliff  
MMIS Section Chief-FIMS copy  
Karen Barnes-Policy