

Act 292 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session

Council on Medicaid Pharmacy Reimbursement

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Bienville Building

Room 118

628 N. 4th Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Name	Committee Attendance	Attendance
M.J. Terrebonne	Pharmacist (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare)	Present
Kim Wixson	Louisiana Pharmacists Association	Present
Nikki Hollier	Louisiana Board of Pharmacy	Present
Melwyn Wendt	Louisiana Department of Health	Present
Dana Antoon	Louisiana Board of Pharmacy	Present
Dr. Stewart Gordon	Physician (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare)	Zoom
Doug Boudreaux	Pharmacist (House Committee on Health & Welfare)	Zoom
Randal Johnson	Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association	Present
Dr. Wanda Thomas	Physician (House Committee on Health & Welfare)	Zoom
Jeff Gaude	National Association of Chain Drug Stores	Absent
Pam Reed	LA Alliance of Retail Pharmacies	Present
Zoom Attendance	Doug Boudreaux, Dr. Wanda Thomas, Dr. Stewart Gordon, Joshua Dupuis	

- **Call to order**
 - The meeting was called to order at 9::24 a.m. by M.J. Terrebonne
- **Introductions and Quorum Determination**
 - The roll was called by M.J. Terrebonne and a quorum was confirmed.
- **Review and approval of April 12th meeting minutes**
 - Nikki Hollier motioned to approve the minutes and Dana Antoon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no objection.
- **LDH Public Records Request**
 - M.J. asked if these are the only available reports readily available.

- LDH response: The MCOs submit LDH required reports to LDH on a monthly or quarterly basis. This list was provided to this committee. These reports contain MCO utilization, PA information, DUR information, lock-in information, etc. The monitoring of the MCOs utilization is different than the utilization monitoring that occurred, it was FFS only, before the MCOs existed.
- Nikki Hollier asked what's the different between an encounter and claim.
 - LDH response: Encounter comes from MCOs managed care. We have a batch encounter guide for pharmacy that the MCOs are required to follow. During an encounter there are certain fields you cannot get, which are on the claim. The encounter format is governed by NCPDP.
- Randal Johnson said, the pharmacies always submit a claim by NCPDP data. If they pay the MCO the premium for the patient, Federal law requires a minimum of 85 percent. I think this information is still in the data warehouse. Someone in the department feeds this information to CMS. We were asking for reports readily available, so we can use as tools.
- LDH response: LDH provided a list of reports to the counsel that the MCOs submit to LDH.
- Nikki Hollier said, as a tax payer and citizen of this state, if we have turned 90 percent of the budget to MCO's, why in the world would we not demand this data from the MCO's?
 - LDH Legal: This is not correct. We are required to follow the federal regulations regarding MCOs and encounter reporting. The encounters are submitted by the MCOs in a required NCPDP encounter format.
- MJ Terrebonne said, the department chose to place the bulk of the pharmacy benefits in managed care in 2012, and there are federal regulations which must be complied with.
- Nikki Hollier asked, is there a way for the department to require the MCO's to report the same data that's available for FFS claims in the MCO format.
- **LDH Response to Council's letter to Secretary Phillips**
 - A response letter was shared in the packet. Undersecretary Ruth Johnson responded to the letter from the council members.
- **Pharmacy Staff Discussion Brand over Generic Proposal**
 - LDH is proposing one addition at this time. We look at the cost to the pharmacy provider. We also look at the cost to the state.
- **LIPA Pharmacy Survey of NADAC and AAC Results**
 - Randal Johnson provide the update and shared LIPA received 87 responses, with 71 hoping for AAC; if they addressed a few considerations. Sixteen responses were in favor of staying with NADAC.

- **LDH Pharmacy Survey of NADAC and AAC Results**
 - LDH provided a response and said the data should be available at the next meeting.
- **Provider Enrollment Update**
 - LDH shared an update, and stated we currently have five pharmacies not enrolled, and 227 pharmacists not enrolled. 2,907 prescribers not enrolled.
- **Medicaid Single PBM Update**
 - LDH shared an update and stated they are still on-track to implement the single PBM with Magellan on October 1st. LDH is also planning external stakeholder engagement at the end of June.
- **Update on Vaccine Counseling**
 - LDH shared an update and stated they were in communication with the MCOs on how to program using the field approved by NCPDP. LDH did receive information that other states with Medicaid are allowing the billing to be a medical benefit.
- **Call for Public Testimony**
 - Brandi Cannon stated Senator Mills feels the intent of the council has been lost. Senator Mills asked me to come down here and refresh everyone's intent. Senator Mills said the intent was for pharmacists to have an avenue where they could talk and come up with solutions. "Let's have a council where the pharmacist can come. Then the pharmacist could say, we have the same problem." The intent was not for data mining. Senator Mills is receiving reports, the council is getting in the weeds. This is not the intention Senator Mills had for this council. The pharmacist were to come and say here's my real life example. If you have specific examples, then bring this to the council, and this is what you should be discussing. If the council needs to be tweaked, feel free to talk to Senator Mills. How does data mining fall into the intention of the council? I will let Senator Mills know the council has shifted. Senator Mills was very specific with what he wanted to accomplish.
 - Kim Wixson: Numerous times when we are asking for information, it's not readily available. I think that's how we got in the weeds.
 - MJ: The pharmacy program is a very large program. There was a report generated by Myers and Stauffer. This was key to addressing the ingredient cost. We have heard individual stories from all these pharmacists. In order to make any sort of analysis, you need information. I believe your question about what we're doing will be addressed in the next topic. There's a lot going on in the pharmacy world. It's a very high profile program.
 - LDH: The MCOs operate different from FFS.

- Nikki: We asked for data, and it was very difficult for LDH to provide. Would you agree it would be helpful moving forward, if this was reported in a new format?
 - LDH: We cannot issue an opinion on this until after we review requirements for federal and state regulations.
- **Other Business**
 - N/A
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. Melwyn Wendt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kim Wixson seconded the motion.