

## NOTICE OF INTENT

### Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing

#### **Reimbursement for Vaccine Administration During a Declared Public Health Emergency** **(LAC 50:IX.8305,8505,15113 and XXIX.Chapter 9)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:IX.8305, §8505, §15113, and XXIX.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 proposed Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing reimbursement in the Professional Services and Pharmacy programs in order to adopt provisions governing vaccine administration during a declared public health emergency (PHE) (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 47, Number 1). The department determined that it was necessary to amend the December 23, 2020 Emergency Rule in order to add language specifying the requirement for Medicaid reimbursement to pharmacies for administration of vaccines related the PHE (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 47, Number 4). This proposed Rule is being promulgated

to continue the provisions of the December 23, 2020 and April 20, 2021 Emergency Rules.

**Title 50**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**  
**Part IX. Professional Services Program**  
**Subpart 7. Immunizations**

**Chapter 83. Children's Immunizations**

**§8305. Reimbursement Methodology**

A. - C.1. ...

D. Administration of vaccines related to a declared public health emergency shall be reimbursed at up to 100 percent of the Louisiana Region 99 Medicare rate for the duration deemed necessary by the Medicaid Program to ensure access. If providers are required to purchase vaccines, the vaccines will be reimbursed.

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, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 35:71 (January 2009), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing and the Office of Public Health, LR 39:96 (January 2013), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 41:1289 (July 2015), amended by

the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing LR 47:49 (January 2021), LR 47:

## **Chapter 85. Adult Immunizations**

### **§8505. Reimbursement Methodology**

A. - C. ...

D. Administration of vaccines related to a declared public health emergency shall be reimbursed at up to 100 percent of the Louisiana Region 99 Medicare rate for the duration deemed necessary by the Medicaid Program to ensure access. If providers are required to purchase vaccines, the vaccines will be reimbursed.

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 and the Office of Public Health, LR 39:97 (January 2013), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 41:1290 (July 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing LR 47:50 (January 2021), LR 47:

## **Chapter 151. Reimbursement Methodology**

### **Subchapter B. Physician Services**

#### **§15113. Reimbursement Methodology**

A. - N. ...

O. Administration of treatments related to a declared public health emergency shall be reimbursed at up to 100 percent of the Louisiana Region 99 Medicare rate for the duration deemed necessary by the Medicaid Program to ensure access.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 36:1252 (June 2010), amended LR 36:2282 (October 2010), LR 37:904 (March 2011), LR 39:3300, 3301 (December 2013), LR 41:541 (March 2015), LR 41:1119 (June 2015), LR 41:1291 (July 2015), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 44:62 (January 2018), LR 47:

## **Part XXIX. Pharmacy**

### **Chapter 9. Methods of Payment**

#### **Subchapter H. Vaccines**

##### **§991. Vaccine Administration Fees**

A. ...

B. Administration of vaccines related to a declared public health emergency shall be reimbursed at up to 100 percent of the Louisiana Region 99 Medicare rate for the duration deemed necessary by the Medicaid Program to ensure access. If providers are required to purchase vaccines, then the vaccines will be reimbursed.

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 36:1783 (August 2010), amended LR 40:82 (January 2014), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 43:1555 (August 2017), LR 46:345 (March 2020), LR 47:

**§993. Vaccine Reimbursement**

A. Vaccines for ~~recipients~~beneficiaries aged 19 and over shall be reimbursed at wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) or billed charges, whichever is the lesser amount.

B. Vaccines related to a declared public health emergency shall not be reimbursed if furnished at no cost to providers. When providers are responsible for purchasing the vaccine, the Medicaid Program shall reimburse.

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 40:82 (January 2014), amended LR 46:345 (March 2020), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 47:

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.

#### **Family Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed Rule on the family has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on family functioning, stability and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

#### **Poverty Impact Statement**

In compliance with Act 854 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the poverty impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973.

#### **Small Business Analysis**

In compliance with Act 820 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the economic impact of this proposed Rule on small businesses has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on small businesses, as described in R.S. 49:965.2 et seq.

#### **Provider Impact Statement**

In compliance with House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 170 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the

provider impact of this proposed Rule has been considered. It is anticipated that this proposed Rule will have no impact on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service, no direct or indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and will have no impact on the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170.

### **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Tara A. LeBlanc, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. Ms. LeBlanc is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule. The deadline for submitting written comments is at 4:30 p.m. on May 30, 2021.

### **Public Hearing**

Interested persons may submit a written request to conduct a public hearing by U.S. mail to the Office of the Secretary ATTN: LDH Rulemaking Coordinator, Post Office Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629; however, such request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 10, 2021. If the criteria set forth in R.S. 49:953(A)(2)(a) are satisfied, LDH will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on May 27, 2021 in Room 118 of the Bienville Building, which is located at 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA. To confirm whether or not a public hearing

will be held, interested persons should first call Allen Enger at (225) 342-1342 after May 10, 2021. If a public hearing is to be held, all interested persons are invited to attend and present data, views, comments, or arguments, orally or in writing. In the event of a hearing, parking is available to the public in the Galvez Parking Garage, which is located between North Sixth and North Fifth/North and Main Streets (cater-corner from the Bienville Building). Validated parking for the Galvez Garage may be available to public hearing attendees when the parking ticket is presented to LDH staff at the hearing.

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips

Secretary