

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Health Bureau of Health Services Financing

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Personal Care Services Personal Care Workers Wage Enhancement (LAC 50:XV.7321)

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:XV.7321 under 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 proposes to amend the provisions governing reimbursement for personal care services (PCS) provided to beneficiaries in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program in order to remove outdated language regarding a wage enhancement that is not applicable to the current EPSDT-PCS program.

Title 50 PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE Part XV. Services for Special Populations Subpart 5. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Chapter 73. Personal Care Services

§7321. Reimbursement

A. - A.2. ...

~~B. Personal Care Workers Wage Enhancement~~

~~1. An hourly wage enhancement payment in the amount of \$2 will be reimbursed to providers for full-time equivalent (FTE) personal care workers who provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries.~~

~~a. At least 75 percent of the wage enhancement shall be paid to personal care workers as wages. If less than 100 percent of the enhancement is paid in wages, the remainder, up to 25 percent shall be used to pay employer related taxes, insurance and employee benefits.~~

~~b. The minimum hourly rate paid to personal care workers shall be the current minimum wage plus 75 percent of the wage enhancement.~~ B. - B.1.b. Repealed.

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 29:179 (February 2003), amended LR 33:2202 (October 2007), repromulgated LR 33:2425 (November 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 36:2561 (November 2010), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 45:908 (July 2019), LR 49:

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 the Small Business Protection Act, 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.

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, 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. 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 December 30, 2022.

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 December 12, 2022. 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 December 29, 2022 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 December 12, 2022. 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