

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Nursing Facilities  
Reimbursement Methodology  
(LAC 50:II.20001)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 50:II.20001 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953 (B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing provides reimbursement to nursing facilities, through vendor payments, for services rendered to Medicaid eligible individuals who reside in nursing facilities.

As a result of a budgetary shortfall in state fiscal year (SFY) 2017-2018, the department has determined that it is necessary to amend the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities in order to suspend the provisions of LAC 50:II.Chapter 200 and to impose provisions to ensure that the current rates in effect do not increase for the SFY 2018 rating period. This action is being taken to avoid a

budget deficit in the Medical Assistance Program. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will have no fiscal impact for state fiscal year 2017-2018 since Medicaid payments for nursing facility services will remain at the same level.

Effective July 1, 2017, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities.

**Title 50**

**PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Part II. Nursing Facilities**

**Subpart 5. Reimbursement**

**Chapter 200. Reimbursement Methodology**

**§20001. General Provisions**

A. - B.7. ...

C. Effective for the rate period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, the department shall suspend the provisions of LAC 50:II.Chapter 200 governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities and impose the following provisions governing reimbursements for nursing facility services.

1. During this time period, no inflation factor will be applied to the base resident day weighted medians and prices calculated as of July 1, 2016.

2. All costs and cost components that are required by Rule to be trended forward will only be trended forward to the midpoint of the 2017 state fiscal year (December 31, 2016).

3. The base capital per square foot value, land value per square foot, and per licensed bed equipment value utilized in the calculation of the fair rental value (FRV) component will be set equal to the value of these items as of July 1, 2016.

4. Base capital values for the Bed Buy-Back Program (LAC 50:II.20012) purposes will be set equal to the value of these items as of July 1, 2016.

5. Nursing facility providers will not have their weighted age totals for the FRV component calculation purposes increased by one year as of July 1, 2017.

6. As of the July 1, 2018 rate setting, nursing facility provider weighted age totals for the FRV component calculation purposes will be increased by two years to account for the suspended year of aging occurring as of the July 1, 2017 rate period.

7. No other provisions of LAC 50:II.Chapter 200 shall be suspended for this time period.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254, R.S. 46:2742, 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 28:1473 (June 2002), repromulgated LR 28:1790 (August 2002), amended LR 28:2537 (December 2002), LR 32:2262 (December 2006), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 38:825 (March 2012), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:1522 (September 2016), LR 43:525 (March 2017), LR 43:

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.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary