

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

**Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments  
Major Medical Centers  
(LAC 50:V.2715)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 50:V.2715 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 and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amended the provisions governing disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments in order to re-establish the provisions governing payments to public, non-rural community hospitals (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 40, Number 10). The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing promulgated an Emergency Rule which adopted provisions to establish a qualification criteria and DSH payment methodology for major medical centers located in the central and northern areas of Louisiana (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 42, Number 7).

In order to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services'

(CMS) requirements and the associated approved Medicaid State Plan amendment, the department promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions of the June 30, 2016 Emergency Rule (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 43, Number 2).

This Emergency Rule is being promulgated in order to continue the provisions of the February 20, 2017 Emergency Rule. This action is being taken to promote the public health and welfare of uninsured individuals, and ensure their continued access to health services by assuring that hospitals are adequately reimbursed for furnishing uncompensated care.

Effective October 20, 2017, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing DSH payments to major medical centers located in the central and northern areas of the state.

## **TITLE 50**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Part V. Hospital Services**

#### **Subpart 3. Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments**

#### **Chapter 27. Qualifying Hospitals**

#### **§2715. Major Medical Centers Located in Central and Northern Areas of the State**

A. Effective for dates of service on or after June 30, 2016, hospitals qualifying for payments as major medical centers located in the central and northern areas of the state shall meet the following criteria:

1. be a private, non-rural hospital located in Department of Health administrative regions 6, 7, or 8;
2. have at least 200 inpatient beds as reported on the Medicare/Medicaid cost report, Worksheet S-3, column 2, lines 1 - 18, for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. For qualification purposes, inpatient beds shall exclude nursery and Medicare designated distinct part psychiatric unit beds;
3. does not qualify as a Louisiana low-income academic hospital under the provisions of §3101; and
4. such qualifying hospital (or its affiliate) does have a memorandum of understanding executed on or after June 30, 2016 with Louisiana State University - School of Medicine, the purpose of which is to maintain and improve access to quality care for Medicaid patients in connection with the expansion of Medicaid in the state through the promotion, expansion, and support of graduate medical education and training.

B. Payment Methodology. Effective for dates of service on or after June 30, 2016, each qualifying hospital shall be paid a DSH adjustment payment which is the pro rata amount calculated by dividing their hospital specific allowable uncompensated care costs by the total allowable uncompensated care costs for all hospitals qualifying under this category and multiplying by the funding appropriated by the Louisiana Legislature in the applicable state fiscal year for this category of hospitals.

1. Costs, patient specific data and documentation that qualifying criteria is met shall be submitted in a format specified by the department.

2. Costs and lengths of stay shall be reviewed by the department for reasonableness before payments are made.

3. Aggregate DSH payments for hospitals that receive payment from this category, and any other DSH category, shall not exceed the hospital's specific DSH limit. If payments calculated under this methodology would cause a hospital's aggregate DSH payment to exceed the limit, the payment from this category shall be capped at the hospital's specific DSH limit.

4. A pro rata decrease, necessitated by conditions specified in §2501.B.1 above for hospitals described in this Section, will be calculated based on the ratio determined by dividing the hospital's uncompensated costs by the uncompensated costs for all of the qualifying hospitals described in this Section, then multiplying by the amount of disproportionate share payments calculated in excess of the federal DSH allotment.

a. Additional payments shall only be made after finalization of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) mandated DSH audit for the state fiscal year. Payments shall be limited to the aggregate amount recouped from the qualifying hospitals described in this Section, based on these reported audit results. If the hospitals' aggregate amount of

underpayments reported per the audit results exceeds the aggregate amount overpaid, the payment redistribution to underpaid hospitals shall be paid on a pro rata basis calculated using each hospital's amount underpaid, divided by the sum of underpayments for all of the hospitals described in this Section.

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, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 43:

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](mailto:MedicaidPolicy@la.gov). Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to all 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