

POTPOURRI

Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

**Eliminating Pain as the Fifth Vital Sign and as a Determinant of
Quality Patient Care**

In compliance with the requirements of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 75 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, alerts all managed care organizations and providers that the Louisiana Legislature has urged and requested the Department to take all necessary steps to bring attention to the need to eliminate pain as the fifth vital sign and a determinate of quality patient care, and to increase prescriber education and awareness on assessing, identifying, and treating the symptom of pain with the goal of reducing the use of opioids to treat patient-reported pain when alternative forms of pain management would be sufficient.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary