

**NOTICE OF INTENT**

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

**Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan  
Network Provider Reimbursement  
(LAC 50:1.2111)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing proposes to amend LAC 50:1.2111 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.

Act 10 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature directed the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing to increase reimbursement rates for dental exams for children under three years of age and restorative dental services provided to Medicaid recipients. In compliance with Act 10, the department promulgated an Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing the dental benefits prepaid ambulatory health plan in order to increase reimbursement rates for dental exams for children under three years of age and restorative dental services (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 46, Number 4). The proposed Rule is being promulgated in order to continue the provisions of the March 23, 2020 Emergency Rule.

**Title 50**

**PUBLIC HEALTH – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Part 1. Administration**

**Subpart 3. Managed Care for Physical and Behavioral Health**

**Chapter 21. Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan**

**§2111. Payment Methodology**

A. – G. ...

H. Network Provider Reimbursement

1. The DBPM shall provide reimbursement for defined core dental benefits and services provided by an in-network provider pursuant to the terms of its contract with the department.

H.2. – I. ...

**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 40:788 (April 2014), amended LR 46:

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 a positive impact on family functioning, stability or autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972 as it is expected have a positive effect on the oral health of children and maintain access to dental services.

#### **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 a positive impact on child, individual, or family poverty in relation to individual or community asset development as described in R.S. 49:973 as it is expected have a positive effect on the oral health of children and maintain access to dental services.

#### **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 a positive impact on small businesses, as described in R.S. 49:965.2 et seq. by increasing reimbursement rates.

#### **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, but may reduce the total direct and indirect cost to the provider to provide the same level of service, and may enhance the provider's ability to provide the same level of service as described in HCR 170 since this proposed Rule may increase payments to providers of dental services.

## **Public Comments**

Interested persons may submit written comments to Erin Campbell, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821—9030. Ms. Campbell 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, 2020.

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 11, 2020. 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 28, 2020 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 11, 2020. 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.

Stephen R. Russo, JD

Interim Secretary

## **FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

### **RULE TITLE: Dental Benefits Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plan**

#### **Network Provider Reimbursement**

#### **I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed rule will result in estimated state programmatic costs of approximately \$2,145,842 for FY 19-20, \$2,291,402 for FY 20-21 and \$2,360,144 for FY 21-22. It is anticipated that \$540 (\$270 SGF and \$270 FED) will be expended in FY 19-20 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

It is anticipated that the implementation of this proposed Rule will increase federal revenue collections by approximately \$5,626,041 for FY 19-20, \$5,713,081 for FY 20-21 and \$5,884,474 for FY 21-22. It is anticipated that \$270 will be collected in FY 19-20 for the federal share of the expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

This proposed rule, in compliance with Act 10 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, continues the provisions of the March 23, 2020 Emergency Rule which amended the provisions governing the dental benefits prepaid ambulatory health plan in order to increase reimbursement rates for dental exams for children under three years of age and restorative dental services provided to Medicaid recipients. This proposed Rule will be beneficial to recipients by ensuring continued access to necessary dental services. Small businesses and dental providers will also benefit from the increased reimbursement for the provision of these services. It is anticipated that implementation of this proposed rule will result in programmatic costs to the Medicaid program of \$7,771,343 in FY 19-20, \$8,004,483 in FY 20-21 and \$8,244,618 in FY 21-22.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

This rule has no known effect on competition and employment.