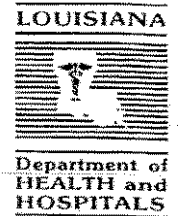




STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

September 8, 2005

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Louisiana Medicaid recipients have been displaced from their homes and are in need of essential medications. Louisiana Medicaid will assist recipients and providers in as many ways as possible so that they may receive their necessary medication. You, as a Louisiana Medicaid pharmacy provider, are greatly appreciated as you fulfill Medicaid recipients' needs.

State of Emergency

In a State of Emergency, a pharmacist is allowed by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to dispense a one-time emergency prescription of **up to a thirty day supply** of a prescribed medication if:

- In the pharmacist's professional opinion the medication is essential to the maintenance of life or to the continuation of therapy; and
- The pharmacist makes a good faith effort to reduce the information to a written prescription marked "Emergency Prescription", then file and maintain the prescription as required by law.

A pharmacist not licensed in Louisiana, but currently licensed in another state, may dispense prescription medications in those affected parish(es) during the time that a state of emergency exists if:

- The pharmacist has some type of identification to verify current licensure in another state; and
- The pharmacist is engaged in a legitimate relief effort during the emergency period.

The authority provided for in this section shall cease with the termination of the state of emergency.

La. R.S. 46:§ 519

Eligibility and Drug Utilization Data

Pharmacists may access the Louisiana Medicaid website at www.lamedicaid.com. This website is a useful tool to access information regarding recipients, prescribing provider numbers and clinical data. To gain access to the website, providers should follow directions on the website. Providers should obtain a log-in ID and password.

- Providers are able to access the Medicaid Eligibility Verification System (MEVS) to verify recipient eligibility. Providers should have the recipient's name and date of birth or social security number.
- Providers may access recipient pharmacy history through the electronic Clinical Data Inquiry (e-CDI).
- Louisiana enrolled prescribing providers and numbers may be accessed through the RXPA PPN link. The password is KARNARDO2002. The password is case sensitive.

Pharmacy providers may contact the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management Section or the ULM Prior Authorization Call Center (866-730-4357) for assistance with recipient drug profiles. Providers may also fax their requests to 318-410-4367 or 318-410-4366. The following information would be appreciated:

- Name;
- Date of birth;
- Recipient identification number; and/or social security number.

Pharmacy providers are currently providing care for Mississippi Medicaid recipients. Should any questions arise regarding eligibility, policy, provider enrollment or claim submission, please contact Mississippi Medicaid at 800-884-3222 or 601-206-3000. Web access is <http://msmedicaid.acs-inc.com>.

September 8, 2005

Page 2

Out of State Prescribing Practitioner Number

Medical professionals from across the country have come to the aid of the many victims of Hurricane Katrina. Pharmacy providers may bill prescriptions written for Louisiana Medicaid recipients by these prescribing practitioners with a special Hurricane Katrina prescriber number. This number should only be utilized for prescribing practitioners who are not enrolled as a Medicaid prescriber/provider in Louisiana. This number is 1827053. Please be reminded that pharmacy providers should submit only 82705 in the electronic claim. In order for these prescribing providers to obtain the Medicaid recipients' drug history, they should contact the ULM Prior Authorization Helpdesk at 866-730-4357 or 318-410-4370 or the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Section at 800-437-9101 or 225-342-9768.

Pharmacist Documentation

Pharmacists are allowed to document required prescribing provider communications such as drug utilization review information on the hard copy script along with the notation of "Hurricane Evacuee" **without** contacting the prescribing provider.

Lock-In Recipients

There may be instances where hurricane evacuees who are also lock-in recipients attempt to have prescriptions filled at non lock-in pharmacies. These pharmacists in their professional opinions may utilize the emergency override procedures to fill these claims if the need is appropriate. These claims should be electronically submitted with a value of "3 = Emergency" in NCPDP field 418-DI (Level of Service). The notation of "Emergency Prescription" should be written on the hard copy prescription.

Out of State Pharmacies

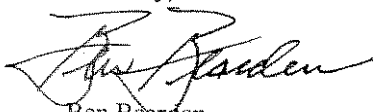
Many out of state pharmacy providers are providing services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The Pharmacy Benefits Management Section and Unisys are expediting the Medicaid enrollment of these pharmacies. Provider enrollment may be reached at 225-216-6370.

Board of Pharmacy

A toll-free telephone number has been established at the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy for information regarding shelters and their medical needs and supplies.

Attached is a list of phone numbers associated with Louisiana Medicaid and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Any updates will be included on the website at www.lamedicaid.com. Your continued efforts to assist Louisiana Medicaid recipients during this trying time are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ben Bearden
Medicaid Director

BB/MJT/alp

Attachment

Louisiana Medicaid and Hurricane Katrina Relief Authorities

Contact	Toll-Free Number	Local Number
Medicaid Eligibility Verification	800-776-6323	225-216-7387
Medicaid Recipient Enrollment	888-342-6207	
Medicaid POS Helpdesk	800-648-0790	225-216-6381
Medicaid Provider Enrollment		225-216-6370
Medicaid Provider Relations	800-473-2783	225-924-5040
Pharmacy Benefits Management Unit	800-437-9101	225-342-9768
KIDMED/CommunityCARE Referral Hotline	877-455-9955	
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy	866-334-9587	225-922-2032 225-922-2033
ULM Prior Authorization Unit	866-730-4357	318-410-4370
Red Cross	800-438-4636 800-257-7575 (Spanish)	225-293-1889
Salvation Army	800-725-2769	
United Way 221	800-749-COPE (2673)	
Medical Volunteers		225-763-5763 225-763-5762
Evacuees in Need of Dialysis		225-387-1333