




**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 27, 2021

**TO:** All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

**FROM:** Patrick Gillies, Medicaid Executive Director 

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Criteria Update for  
Aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™)

Effective November 1, 2021, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), in consultation with the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board, will implement updated criteria for aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™). The criteria update applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS and MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

Aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™) is indicated for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and administered as an intravenous (IV) infusion. Treatment with aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™) should be initiated only in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia stage of disease.

**Clinical Criteria Update**

Pharmacy claims for aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™) require an approved clinical authorization for reimbursement. The prescriber must complete the drug specific aducanumab-avwa (Aduhelm™) clinical authorization form. The updated clinical criteria and authorization form can be found on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) at the following link:  
<http://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/PDL.pdf>.

Pharmacy claims submitted without an approved clinical authorization will deny at Point of Sale (POS) with:

**MCO Only:** The pharmacy claim will deny with a **NCPDP rejection code**.  
If additional assistance is needed, contact the health plan. (See contact information at the end of this document.)

FFS Only: **NCPDP rejection code 88** (DUR Reject Error) mapped to  
**EOB code 066** (Clinical Authorization Required).

**Additional Information:**

If you have questions about the content of this memo, you may contact the FFS pharmacy help desk by phone at (800) 437-9101.

If you have questions about pharmacy claims billing, you may contact the appropriate plan at their pharmacy help desk listed in the chart below.

<b>Healthcare Provider</b>	<b>Pharmacy Help Desk</b>	<b>Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number</b>
Aetna	CVS Health	(855) 364-2977
AmeriHealth Caritas	PerformRx	(800) 684-5502
Fee for Service	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790
Healthy Blue	CVS	(833) 236-6194
Louisiana Healthcare Connections	CVS Caremark	(800) 311-0543
UnitedHealthcare	Optum Rx	(866) 328-3108

Please forward this notice to other providers to assist with notification. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health are greatly appreciated.

PG/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans  
Melwyn B. Wendt  
Gainwell Technologies