



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 30, 2018

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

**FROM:** *for* Jen Steele, Medicaid Director *MLB*

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Removal of Point of Sale (POS) New Prescription Requirement for Buprenorphine and Benzodiazepine Seizure Diagnosis Exemption for Concurrent Use with Opioids

Effective December 12, 2018, the Louisiana Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (LADUR) Board in collaboration with the pharmacy program will remove the new prescription requirement for buprenorphine agents. Also, an incoming pharmacy claim for a benzodiazepine will not deny for concurrent use of benzodiazepines and opiates if an approved seizure diagnosis code is entered at POS.

**Removal of the New Prescription Requirement for Buprenorphine Agents**

The previous policy did not allow refills of buprenorphine agents and required a new prescription for every fill. Under the new policy, pharmacy claims for buprenorphine agents will no longer require a new prescription each time a buprenorphine agent is filled. Prescriptions for buprenorphine agents will still need to comply with all state and federal laws and regulations for controlled substances.

**Seizure Diagnosis Exemption for Concurrent Use with Opioids**

An incoming benzodiazepine claim with an acceptable seizure diagnosis code will bypass the concurrent use edit whenever the recipient has an active opioid claim on file. However, an incoming opioid claim will deny for concurrent use when there is an active benzodiazepine claim on the recipient's file.

FFS Medicaid Removal of Buprenorphine New Rx Requirement and Benzodiazepine  
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Incoming pharmacy claims for benzodiazepines will bypass the concurrent use denial when one of the following diagnosis codes is submitted in **NCPDP field 424-DO (Diagnosis Code)**:

<b>Diagnosis Description</b>	<b>ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code</b>
Convulsions in Newborn	P90
Epilepsy, Seizures	G40*
Other Convulsions	R56*

\*any number or letter or combination of UP TO FOUR numbers and letters of an assigned ICD-10-CM Diagnosis code

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 DXC Technology (formerly Molina) help desk by phone at (800) 648-0790.

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.

JS/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans  
Melwyn B. Wendt  
DXC Technology