



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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 27, 2019

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

**FROM:** Jen Steele, Medicaid Director *JMS*

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Assessment of Updated Pharmacy Copayments

Effective April 1, 2019, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program and five Managed Care Organizations (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and United Healthcare) will modify pharmacy copay limits for Medicaid FFS and MCOs.

In accordance with CFR 447.56, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) will implement measures to ensure that copays of Medicaid household members do not exceed five percent of the family income. The implementation of the updated pharmacy copay limits will occur in two phases:

**Phase 1:** From April 1, 2019-December 31, 2019, a copay tier of \$0.00 will be assessed for Medicaid household members with a monthly income of \$800 or less.

Medicaid recipients who are not copay exempt, will still be assessed a copay ranging from \$0.50 to \$3.00 for pharmacy claims. The income-based copay tier will be established from April 1-December 31, 2019 as shown below:

| Calculated State Payment     | Copayment (Effective 4/1/2019 thru 12/31/2019) |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monthly income \$800 or less | \$0  |
| \$10.00 or less              | \$0.50   |
| \$10.01-\$25.00              | \$1.00   |
| \$25.01-\$50.00              | \$2.00   |
| \$50.01 or more              | \$3.00   |

**Phase 2:** Effective January 1, 2020, a maximum monthly copay per recipient will be applied at Point of Sale based on household income. Copay assessments will stop once the monthly threshold is met.

**Note:** Current copayment exemptions will still apply (i.e. under the age of twenty-one) during both phases.

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.

| <b>Health Plan</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                  | DXC Technology            | (800) 648-0790                         |
| Healthy Blue                     | Express Scripts           | (844) 367-6111                         |
| Louisiana Healthcare Connections | CVS Caremark              | (800) 311-0543                         |
| United Healthcare                | 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.

JS/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans  
Melwyn B. Wendt  
DXC Technology