



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 26, 2021

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

FROM: Michael Boutte, Interim Medicaid Executive Director *MLB*

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Diagnosis Code Requirement for Ivermectin (Stromectol®)

Effective September 1, 2021, the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program will implement a diagnosis code requirement at Point of Sale (POS) for oral ivermectin (Stromectol®). The diagnosis code requirement applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS Medicaid and Louisiana Medicaid MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

Oral Ivermectin (Stromectol®) Prescriptions

Ivermectin (Stromectol®) is an antiparasitic drug used to treat parasitic diseases such as strongyloidiasis. The Food and Drug Administration has not approved or authorized ivermectin (Stromectol®) for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.¹ Utilization of ivermectin (Stromectol®) outside of current prescribing information can lead to serious adverse effects and can interact with other commonly prescribed medications. Therefore, ivermectin (Stromectol®) is not covered and considered not medically necessary for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. To ensure safe and appropriate drug utilization of ivermectin, prescribers should submit a diagnosis code for all oral ivermectin (Stromectol®) prescriptions (i.e., written, verbal, and electronic).

Diagnosis Code Requirement (Pharmacy Billing)

Pharmacy claims for oral ivermectin (Stromectol®) require the submission of an appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code at Point of Sale. (See the following chart)

¹ Food and Drug Administration. Why You Should Not Use Ivermectin to Treat or Prevent COVID-19. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

FFS and MCO Diagnosis Code Requirement for Ivermectin (Stromectol®)

August 26, 2021

Page 2

<u>Generic Name-Brand</u>	<u>Diagnosis Description</u>	<u>ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code</u>
Ivermectin (Stromectol®), oral	Unspecified Parasitic Disease	B89

A pharmacy claim will deny at Point of Sale (POS) when there is a missing or invalid diagnosis code submitted in **NCPDP field 424-DO** (Diagnosis Code) with:

MCO Only: The pharmacy claim will deny with a **NCPDP rejection code**.

FFS Only: **NCPDP rejection code 39** (Missing/Invalid ICD-10-CM diagnosis code) mapped to **EOB Code 575** (Missing/Invalid 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 appropriate plan at their pharmacy help desk listed in the chart below.

Healthcare Provider	Pharmacy Help Desk	Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Number
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.

MB/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Gainwell Technologies