




# State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 15, 2022

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Single Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update for Epoetin Alfa (Epogen®) - Effective April 1, 2022

Effective April 1, 2022, the Louisiana Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) status of epoetin alfa (Epogen®) from non-preferred to preferred. The update of epoetin alfa (Epogen®) to preferred PDL status applies to pharmacy claims submitted to FFS and Managed Care Organizations (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare).

### **Epoetin Alfa (Epogen®)**

Due to a supply disruption of the preferred agent epoetin alfa-epbx (Retacrit®), the prior authorization (PA) status of epoetin alfa (Epogen®), is changing from non-preferred to preferred. Louisiana Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Program has determined that this change to preferred status will allow ease of access for patients and dispensing pharmacies. Pharmacy claims for epoetin alfa (Epogen®) will process as a preferred drug on the Louisiana Medicaid Single PDL, and **do not require prior authorization**. Epoetin alfa-epbx (Retacrit®) will remain preferred on the PDL. The PDL document will be posted on April 1, 2022 to reflect this change in PA status.

### **Additional Information:**

Refer to <http://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/PDL.pdf> for the PDL, which is inclusive of the *Louisiana Uniform Prescription Drug Prior Authorization Form*, medication list, and criteria.

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