



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

December 2, 2009

Dear Medicaid Pharmacy Provider:

**Re: Reimbursement of Tamiflu® Suspension
National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Expansion of Medicaid Prescriber Number**

Reimbursement of Tamiflu® Suspension

Louisiana Medicaid does not pay for compounded prescriptions, nor has the billing process been established to allow the submission of compounded prescriptions.

Due to the H1N1 Declared Emergency and shortage of commercially manufactured oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) suspension, Louisiana Medicaid will **only** allow pharmacies to bill the quantity of Tamiflu® capsules utilized in the mixing of the suspension as ordered by a prescribing practitioner's prescription. This will be allowed as long as the shortage of the manufactured Tamiflu® exists.

Pharmacies may receive letters from the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Audit Section which is verifying the quantity of Tamiflu® capsules dispensed. In some instances, pharmacies have submitted billed quantities for the final compounded quantity and not the total number of capsules used in the mixing of the suspension. Following the instructions above will avoid the overbilling of quantities and/or charges.

When a pharmacy is attempting to bill Medicaid as the secondary payor, the claim must be submitted on the NCPDP paper Universal Claim Form.

For those pharmacy providers who have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' Office of Public Health to dispense antivirals from the Strategic National Stockpile, please be reminded that Medicaid may not be billed for these prescriptions.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Expansion of Medicaid Prescriber Number

As the numbers of providers enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid have increased, it is necessary for our program to expand the numeric range of Medicaid issued provider numbers. In doing so, effective December 18, 2009, Louisiana Medicaid will only allow Point of Sale (POS) claims to be submitted with a **seven** digit Medicaid prescriber number when the prescriber does not have an NPI. Unless all seven digits are submitted, the system cannot identify the correct prescriber. Therefore, to reiterate a five digit prescriber ID will no longer be allowed.

We encourage pharmacy providers to make every effort to send the **prescribing provider's NPI** in the POS claim. Our reporting shows pharmacies are billing the prescribing provider's NPI 85% of the time.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance regarding the requirement of the prescribing provider's NPI in the pharmacy claim. **In rare cases where a prescriber does not have a NPI or the pharmacy cannot obtain the NPI, the pharmacy may substitute the prescriber's Medicaid number in the claim submission.** The CMS guidance is expected to cover exceptions. It is not intended to allow the routine use of the Medicaid legacy number in place of the prescribing provider's NPI. Pharmacies should submit the individual prescriber NPI in all other situations.

The following edits will be returned when an invalid prescriber number is submitted on the claim.

1. If the NCPDP Prescriber field (411-DB) is not submitted or is invalid:
Error Code 121 (A Prescribing Physician NPI or Medicaid ID Required) which is linked to NCPDP Error Message "25" (Missing or Invalid Prescriber Identification) will be returned to the pharmacy.
2. If the prescriber qualifier indicates an NPI is submitted, but the prescriber's NPI has not been registered with Louisiana Medicaid then:
Error Code 121 (A Prescribing Physician NPI or Medicaid ID Required) which is linked to NCPDP Error Message "56" (Non-Matched Prescriber ID) will be returned to the pharmacy.
3. If the NCPDP Prescriber ID Qualifier (466-EZ) is neither '01'-NPI or '05'- Medicaid Prescriber ID then:
Error Code 497 (Invalid Prescriber ID Qualifier Must Be 01 or 05) which is linked to NCPDP Error Message "EZ" (Missing or Invalid Prescriber ID Qualifier) will be returned to the pharmacy.

A listing of individual prescriber NPIs and corresponding seven digit Medicaid prescriber numbers is available to pharmacies. This list may be found at www.lamedicaid.com, under the Pharmacy and Prescribing Provider link. The list is called Prescribing Provider File (PPN). This list is password protected. The password is KARNARDO2002. The password is case sensitive.

DHH recommends that pharmacy providers contact their software vendor or corporate headquarters to insure that their software is able to accommodate the new seven digit Medicaid prescriber number requirement.

At this time, it is necessary to continue to complete the NCPDP Universal Paper Claim Form with the seven digit Medicaid ID and not the NPI for both the pharmacy and prescriber fields.

Any questions regarding the billing of pharmacy claims with NPIs or the seven digit Medicaid provider number should be directed to the Pharmacy POS Helpdesk at 1-800-648-0790 or 225-216-6381.

Your patience and adherence to these policies are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, * *


Jerry Phillips
Medicaid Director

JP/MJT/alp