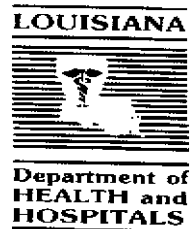




M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



David W. Hood
SECRETARY

January 30, 2002

Dear Medical Practitioner:

Effective March 1, 2002, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program will mandate use of valid five-digit only "individual prescriber practitioner ID numbers" for prescriptions paid by the pharmacy program. These numbers are critical for the following pharmacy program operations in the Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management (LMPBM) and the Louisiana Medicaid Management Information System (LaMMIS):

- Effective drug utilization review and analysis
- Payment of prescription claims
- Prescription drug prior authorization program (Effective date to be announced.)

As the result of enabling legislation in the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature, DHH is in the process of developing and implementing a prescription prior authorization program for selected drugs, which will necessitate use of individual prescriber numbers. Detailed information and training will be provided prior to the implementation of the prior authorization program. The following information regarding individual prescriber practitioner ID numbers is provided in preparation for this program's implementation.

Effective with the implementation of the program, requests for authorization of any drug requiring prior authorization will require a current, valid five-digit **individual** prescribing practitioner Medicaid ID number (i.e., physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, as well as advanced nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists with prescriptive authority). **Only individual provider/prescriber numbers will be accepted; group or hospital provider numbers are not acceptable.** There will be no exceptions in cases where prior authorization of a drug is required.

In order to meet the pharmacy program's requirements, DHH and the following five academic centers have also issued individual prescriber ID numbers to all interns, residents, and fellows currently in training. Contact persons for practitioners at the centers are:

Baton Rouge General Medical Center
Family Residency Program
Contact: Triage Nurse
Ph: 225-381-6620

LSU Medical Center-New Orleans
Contact: Cynthia Scott
Ph: 504-568-8632
Ph: 504-568-4006

Tulane University-New Orleans
Contact: Chris Antezak
Ph: 504-588-5464

LSU Medical Center-Shreveport
Contact: Chasidy Mangham
Ph: 318-675-5053

Ochsner Medical Foundation
Contact: Reonda Victor
Ph: 800-752-6768

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Contact persons for practitioners at the state operated hospitals (Charity Hospitals) are:

Chabert Medical Center
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 985-873-1265

Lallie Kemp Hospital
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 985-878-1305

Earl K. Long
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 225-358-1085

University Medical Center
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 337-261-6156

E.A. Conway
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 318-330-7513

Walter O. Moss Hospital
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 337-475-8106

Huey P. Long
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 318-473-1426

Washington St. Tammany Hospital
Contact: Medical Director's Office
Ph: 985-735-1322

Individual prescriber ID numbers have also been assigned to prescribing practitioners who deliver health care services in the state operated mental health clinics, developmental centers, and public health clinics.

To obtain a Louisiana Medicaid provider number, contact Unisys:

Prescriber Only – Call Provider Enrollment @ 225/923-8510

Full Service Numbers – Call Provider Relations @ 800/473-2783.

Thank you for your attention to this most important information. Should you have questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Unisys Provider Relations at 800-473-2783.

The Department appreciates your participation in the Medicaid Program and the services you provide to its recipients.

Sincerely,



Ben Bearden
Director

BAB/mjt