

John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR



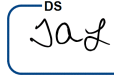
Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
SECRETARY

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2023

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Prescribing Providers and Pharmacists

FROM: Tara A. LeBlanc, Medicaid Executive Director 

SUBJECT: End of Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 Pharmacy Updates

The Department of Health and Human Services will end the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program, which consists of Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid and MCOs (Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Healthy Blue, Humana Healthy Horizons, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare) will make the following changes.

The pharmacy PHE will unwind in phases.

Pharmacy PHE Unwind	Date for Change
Continue allowance of up to a 90-day supply for specific maintenance medications.	April 1, 2023
Reinstatement of signature requirements for pick-up and delivery of prescriptions	May 12, 2023
Align the COVID vaccine administration fee with other vaccines. Currently, the vaccine billing rate is \$15.22 for the 1 st vaccine and \$9.13 for the 2 nd vaccine (same day billing)	May 12, 2023
No "at-home" administration fee of \$32.98 for COVID vaccines	May 12, 2023
Reinstatement of co-payments for qualified adult recipients except for COVID treatment and tests	May 12, 2023
Reinstatement of copayment for COVID treatments for (Paxlovid and Lagevrio) and COVID tests	September 30, 2024

End of Public Health Emergency for COVID-19

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Pharmacy PHE Unwind continued	Date for Change
Termination of allowance for pharmacists to be the prescribing provider for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio)	January 1, 2025
Turn off allowance for pharmacists, qualified pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to administer COVID vaccines to beneficiaries 17 years and younger due to PREP Act. Reinstatement of LABP state law allowance of pharmacists administration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flu vaccines (7 years and above); and • all other vaccines (17 years and above) 	January 1, 2025

Additional Information:

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
Humana Healthy Horizons	Gainwell Technologies	(800) 648-0790
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.

TL/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Gainwell Technologies