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**CHAPTER 5: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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**Physician Assistants**

Louisiana Medicaid enrolls and issues individual Medicaid provider numbers to physician assistants. All claims for services provided by the physician assistant must identify the physician assistant as the attending provider.

Unless otherwise excluded by Louisiana Medicaid, the services covered shall be determined by individual licensure, scope of practice, and supervising physician delegation. The supervising physician must be an enrolled Medicaid provider. Clinical practice guidelines and protocols shall be available for review upon request by authorized representatives of Louisiana Medicaid.

A separate claim shall not be submitted for physician assistant services when the physician assistant is employed by, or under contract with, a Medicaid enrolled provider whose reimbursement is based on cost reports which include the cost of the physician assistant's salary.

The reimbursement for services rendered by a physician assistant shall be 100percent of the fee for physician-administered medications, long acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), immunizations, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) medical, vision, and hearing screenings, and 80percent of the professional services fee schedule for all other services.

**Billing Information**

Providers are to note the following billing instructions and enrollment requirements regarding physician assistant services:

1. Physician assistant services are billed on the CMS 1500 or 837P claim forms;
2. Services provided by the physician assistant must be identified by entering the specific physician assistant provider number in the attending provider block on the claim form. The group number must be entered in the billing provider block;
3. Physicians who employ or contract with physician assistants must obtain a group provider number and link the physician assistant's individual provider number to the group number. Physician groups must notify the fiscal intermediary's Provider Enrollment Unit of such employment or contracts when physician assistants are added or removed from the group; and
4. Qualified physician assistants who perform as assistant at surgery must use the "AS" modifier to identify these services.

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**NOTE:** Services rendered by the physician assistant billed and paid by Medicaid using a physician's number as the attending provider are subject to post payment review and recovery.

**Assistant at Surgery**

Louisiana Medicaid will reimburse for only one assistant at surgery. The assistant to the surgeon should be a qualified physician. In those situations when a physician does not serve as the assistant, a qualified, enrolled, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse may function in the role of an assistant at surgery and may submit claims for their services under their Medicaid provider number.

The reimbursement of claims for more than one assistant at surgery is not covered and subject to recoupment.