




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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2014
TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Hospital Providers
FROM: 
J. Ruth Kennedy, Medicaid Director
SUBJECT: Removal of Hospital Emergency Room Visit Limit

The purpose of this memo is to advise you that effective for dates of service on and after June 1, 2014, Louisiana Medicaid is revising the hospital outpatient reimbursement policy to remove the three (3) emergency room visit per calendar year limit.

CMS recently informed the State that the previously approved three emergency room per calendar year limit may not comply with their current policy that precludes states from *“arbitrarily denying or reducing the amount, duration and scope for a mandatory service solely because of the diagnosis, type of illness or condition.”*

As a result of this guidance from CMS and to eliminate any compliance issues, the State published an administrative rule in the May 20th *Louisiana Register* to amend provisions governing outpatient hospital services and to remove the three visit per calendar year limit for emergency room services. We will be submitting a corresponding state plan amendment to reflect this change as well.

Should you have questions about this change, you can contact Jennifer Stevens, Medicaid Program Manager at (225) 342-6919 or via e-mail at Jennifer.Stevens@la.gov.

JRK/DS/AL

c: Allyson Lamy
Louisiana Hospital Association
Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition
Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans
Derek Stafford
Jen Steele
Jennifer Stevens