



PROGRESS NOTES

June 13, 2014

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UPCOMING EVENTS (See pages 8-9 for details on all events)

2014 Red Stick Pediatric Potpourri | 8/22-24/2014 | Baton Rouge, La

2nd Annual LA Hands & Voices Fundraiser | 8/24/2014 | New Orleans, La



New CMS EPSDT Resource

EPSDT Resource

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has just released a new EPSDT resource providing in-depth information on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. This resource, [**EPSDT – A Guide for States: Coverage in the Medicaid Benefit for Children and Adolescents**](#), is intended to help states, physicians and other health care professionals, families, advocates, and others understand the scope of services covered under EPSDT so that they may realize its goals—to provide all children enrolled in Medicaid with the best possible care for their health care needs.

This new resource does not create new EPSDT policy, but outlines:

- EPSDT screening requirements, including when interperiodic screening should be provided
- The scope of services covered under EPSDT
- EPSDT requirements governing dental, vision, and hearing services
- Permissible limitations on service coverage under EPSDT
- States' responsibilities to assure access to EPSDT services, physicians, and other health care professionals
- Assistance to states as they work with managed care plans to provide the best possible child health benefit
- Notice and appeal procedures required when services are denied, reduced, or terminated

AAP chapters and pediatricians are encouraged to become familiar with the resource and to use it when advocating for Medicaid benefit coverage.

LHIT Resource Center Offers Medicaid Specialists Program

Source: Louisiana Healthcare Quality Forum



The Louisiana Health Information Technology (LHIT) Resource Center, through its Medicaid Specialists Program, is providing outreach, technical and support services to help health care providers meet Meaningful Use (MU) objectives.

This program is focused on assisting providers who were previously ineligible for support from Regional Extension Centers for MU initiatives offered by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

Specialists are eligible for this program if they meet specific criteria including the 30 percent patient threshold established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). These specialists must demonstrate each year that at least 30 percent of their patient volume is attributed to Medicaid during a selected 90-day reporting period.

Providers who satisfy the Medicaid thresholds and who are not under another contract for REC direct assistance would qualify for this program, explains Nadine Robin, Health IT Program Manager for the Quality Forum.

“This program enables these health care providers who serve our Medicaid populations to receive the assistance of the LHIT Resource Center in meeting Meaningful Use of electronic health records,” Robin says. “We look forward to working with them as they adopt and implement EHRs for their patients.”

Specialist physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and certain physician assistants are among those eligible for participation. For more information about the Medicaid Specialists Program and eligibility guidelines, contact Robin at nrobin@lhcaf.org

ONC Releases EHR Adoption Rates Among ACHs in Louisiana



According to an ONC data brief issued in May, 49.2 percent of Louisiana’s non-federal acute care hospitals (ACHs) are now using at least a basic EHR system.

The national average for basic EHR use among non-federal ACHs is 59.4 percent, the data brief states. Hawaii, South Dakota and North Dakota had the highest percent of basic EHR adoption, while Utah, Kansas and Nebraska had the lowest.

In 2013, nearly six in ten non-federal CAHs had adopted at least a basic system with clinician notes. This is a 34 percent increase from the previous year and a more than five-fold increase since 2008, ONC notes.

“In addition, a vast majority of acute care hospitals – 93 percent – possessed EHR technology certified as meeting federal requirements for Meaningful Use objectives,” the report states.

ONC reports also that EHR adoption trends indicate increasing use of advanced functionality. Hospital adoption of comprehensive EHR systems has increased eight-fold since 2009, according to the data brief.

ONC defines a non-federal ACH as “acute care general medical and surgical, children’s general and cancer hospitals owned by private/not-for-profit, investor-owned/for-profit or state/local government,” and adds that this definition “is more consistent with the population of hospitals eligible for federal health IT adoption incentives.”

Read the complete report [here](#).

Louisiana’s Resources for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

Hearing loss is the number one congenital defect in children. This fact comes as a surprise to most people, even to health professionals. Estimates are 1-6 per 1000 live births with an additional percentage occurring later in life, but I am preaching to the choir, and I’m no preacher. In our training, we can all recall those long lectures about metabolic abnormalities, many of which have hearing loss as a feature. But, while great fodder for standardized testing, just how often does the average practitioner see this type of case? You **will** see a case of hearing loss, and in all likelihood, you will see several. We consider an infant with possible metabolic derangement a medical emergency, and, by the same token, we should consider hearing loss a developmental emergency. Research demonstrates that earlier intervention in cases of hearing loss leads to better language acquisition.

Continuing with our metabolic metaphors, your friendly neighborhood geneticist would be more than happy to take those cases off your hands. For hearing loss, who can we talk to? What resources are out there?

A little history: the Louisiana Identification of Hearing Impairment in Infants Law (Act 653 [1999] & 417 [1992]) mandated mandates that all newborns born in hospital have a hearing screen prior to discharge with the results sent to the Department of Health and Hospitals. It also created a program led by an advisory council for Early Hearing Detection & Intervention, or the EHDI Council. We are responsible for establishing recommendations and standards for screening, identification of risk factors, monitoring, and quality assurance. In addition, we offer health care providers technical and administrative assistance, and the lay public with information and follow up. We are advisors only and have no enforcement power, but that's not to say we aren't busy. We have a number of program initiatives including advising hospitals about newborn screening; data gathering on hearing loss and follow-up; supporting activities to engage families who have children with hearing loss; and finally, connecting with primary care providers and the medical home to improve the identification of hearing loss in infants and children.

One of our support organizations is Louisiana Hands and Voices, a non-profit, parent-driven organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in whatever modality they choose, whether it is cochlear implants, sign language, cued speech or a combination. Their major fundraiser is at Rock 'n' Bowl at 3000 S. Carrollton Ave in New Orleans on Sunday, August 24th from 1 PM to 4 PM. Go to www.lahandsandvoices.org/ or call 504-919-8147/504-388-5712 for details.

Bayou Health/ Medicaid

Updated Bayou Health Informational Bulletin

Please see alert from DHH re Bayou Health

http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational_Bulletins/IB12-27.pdf

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Bayou Health Informational Bulletin 12-27

Revised June 10, 2014

Issue: Bayou Health Provider Issue Escalation and Resolution

DHH offers providers numerous avenues for reporting and resolving issues related to Bayou Health. **It is important that providers follow the process outlined in this informational bulletin for escalation of Bayou Health issues to ensure all concerns are handled timely by the appropriate parties.**

Contact the Health Plan

Providers should **first seek resolution with the Bayou Health Plan**, using the escalation chart at the end of this informational bulletin. The chart includes three tiers for escalation within all five Health Plans and Molina, and is updated on a regular basis.

Each Health Plan is required, through their contract with DHH, to operate a toll-free telephone line to respond to provider questions, comments and inquiries. This line is staffed, at a minimum, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday. (See Section 10 of the Prepaid Health Plan contracts and Section 9 of the Shared Savings Health Plan contracts for details).

In addition, the Contracts require that each Health Plan maintain a **Provider Complaint System** for in-network and out-of-network providers to dispute the Health Plan's policies, procedures, or any aspect of the Plan's

administrative functions. As part of the Provider Complaint system, the Health Plan is required to “have dedicated provider relations staff for providers to contact via telephone, electronic mail, surface mail, and in person to ask questions, file a provider complaint and resolve problems, to identify a staff person specifically designated to receive and process provider complaints, and ensure that a Plan executive with the authority to require corrective action are involved in the provider complaint process as necessary.”

DHH strongly recommends that providers document the name of the Plan representative(s) with whom they speak or communicate via e-mail along with the time and date and provide that information as issues are escalated.

Note that if e-mailing protected health information to the Health Plan (or DHH), providers should use **secure e-mail**.

Bayou Health Plans are required to submit a monthly report of all provider complaints to DHH including the issue in the complaint. These reports will be closely monitored by DHH for trends and matters that may require corrective action by the Health Plan.

Visit the Making Medicaid Better Website

DHH often posts news, informational bulletins and frequently asked questions to address systemic or trending provider issues. Providers can subscribe to updates from Bayou Health to be notified of any newsletter or informational bulletin postings, and providers are encouraged to visit the provider portal at www.MakingMedicaidBetter.com for the latest provider news and information.

Contact DHH

If a provider is unable to reach satisfactory resolution or get a timely response through the Health Plan escalation process, **direct contact with DHH should be the final step**. There are several ways for providers to contact DHH.

- **E-mail** DHH staff at bayouhealth@la.gov. Be sure to include details on attempts to resolve the issue at the Health Plan level as well as contact information (contact name, provider name, e-mail and phone number) so that Bayou Health staff can follow up with any questions.
- **Submit a complaint through the online complaint form**. With a quick, three-step process, you can notify DHH staff of your issue and even attach up to three documents for review.

Call Bayou Health. Providers with concerns can contact Bayou Health staff directly at (225) 342-0327 or (225) 342-7742. Be prepared to share details on all attempts to resolve the issue at the Health Plan level.

Informational Bulletins

All bulletins: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1198/n/311>

Be Social with the LA AAP!

Be sure to visit, like us and follow us to keep up with what’s going on and share your stories.

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Upcoming change in UM process for outpatient imaging services at AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Source: AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana

Contact: Sherry Wilkerson, MPH

Director, Provider Network Management

P: 225-300-9085 F: 225-300-9126 E: swilkerson@amerihealthcaritasla.com

Outpatient Imaging Program- Provider Education Webinars

In an effort to continue promotion of quality improvement for services provided to AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana members, effective June 27, 2014, AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana will utilize National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA), to provide the management and prior authorization of non-emergent, advanced, outpatient imaging services.

Services managed and authorized by NIA include **outpatient:**

- **CT/CTA.**
- **MRI/MRA.**
- **CCTA.**
- **Nuclear Cardiology/MPI.**

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana and NIA welcome you to attend our upcoming Provider Education Webinars to learn more about NIA services and what it means to you. Hour-long Provider Education Webinars will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday, June 17, 2014 – 9 AM
Tuesday, June 17, 2014 – 1 PM
Wednesday, June 18, 2014 – 8 AM
Wednesday June 18, 2014 – 12 PM
Thursday, June 26, 2014 – 8 AM
Thursday, June 26, 2014 – 12 PM
Friday, June 27, 2014 – 9 AM
Friday, June 27, 2014 – 1 PM

You will need a computer with Internet access to view the education materials presented during the webinar.

Please RSVP at least 1 week prior to the education seminar you plan to attend by calling an NIA representative at 1-800-327-0641. After your RSVP, you will receive a confirmation email from NIA for the webinar session you selected. The confirmation email will also include a toll-free dial in number with access code and web meeting address.

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana and NIA look forward to working with you to ensure that your AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana members receive diagnostic imaging services delivered in a quality, clinically appropriate fashion.

SUIDA Recipe: Curry Yogurt Chicken Kebab

Kebabs are a great way to get the kids in the kitchen. They are easy to assemble and fun to eat with your fingers. These crowd-pleasing kebabs get an Indian kick from a marinade of curry, and nine vitamins and minerals from the yogurt. Pair with your family's favorite salad or roasted vegetables for a week day dinner that taste like a weekend special!

Ease: Moderate

Prep time: 120 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients:

For the marinade:

- 1 (8-ounce) container plain fat-free yogurt
- 1 lime, zest and juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 jalapeno pepper, minced

For the dipping sauce:

- 1 (8-ounce) container plain fat-free yogurt
- 1 lemon, zest and juice
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 cups chopped seedless cucumber
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Directions:

For the marinade:

Stir all ingredients together in a small bowl. Set aside.*

*Wash hands thoroughly after handling jalapeno pepper or wear protective gloves.

For the glaze:

Stir all ingredients together in a small bowl. Set aside.

For the dipping sauce:

Stir all ingredients together in a small bowl. Refrigerate until serving.

For the glaze:

- 1/2 cup plain fat-free yogurt
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

For the chicken kebabs:

- 8 wooden skewers, soaked in water for 1 hour (or substitute with metal skewers)
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges
- 2 cups pineapple wedges



For the chicken kebabs:

Thread each skewer with alternating pieces of chicken, peppers, onion wedges and pineapple. Place skewers in a glass dish (or large re-sealable plastic bag) and pour marinade over to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 2-4 hours.

Preheat broiler and line a broiler pan with aluminum foil. Lay skewers on pan and lightly brush with some of the glaze. Broil skewers about 5 minutes, then brush with remaining glaze. Turn skewers over and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and edges are browned. Serve hot or cold with dipping sauce.

Nutrition Information:

Calories: 390

Total Fat: 2.5 g

Saturated Fat: 0.5 g

Calcium: 25% Daily Value

Protein: 34 g (5.1 g from dairy)

Cholesterol: 70 mg

Sodium: 880 mg

Carbohydrates: 64 g

Dietary Fiber: 4 g

For more information and recipes visit www.southeastdairy.org



The Louisiana Chapter would like to wish all the Fathers, Grandfathers and Fathers-to-Be a very happy Father's Day!

Upcoming Events

2014 Red Stick Pediatric Potpourri | 8/22-24/14 | Baton Rouge, La

Date: August 22-24, 2014

Location: Embassy Suites (4914 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge)

For all the details: www.laaap.org/2014potpourri

2014 Red Stick Pediatric Potpourri Is Gearing up!

The 2014 Red Stick Pediatric Potpourri has gone mobile using [Guidebook!](#)

We strongly encourage you to download our mobile guide to enhance your experience at 2014 Red Stick Pediatric Potpourri. You'll be able to plan your day with a personalized schedule and browse exhibitors, maps and general conference info.

The app is compatible with iPhones, iPads, iPod Touches and Android devices. Windows Phone 7 and Blackberry users can access the same information via our mobile site at m.guidebook.com.



To get the guide, choose one of the methods below:

- Download '**Guidebook**' from the Apple App Store or the Android Marketplace
- Visit <http://guidebook.com/getit> from your phone's browser

The guide will be listed under the "Download Guides" section of the application. In the search enter "Potpourri" and select 2014 Red Stick Potpourri

Lodging information: Embassy Suites Hotel | 4914 Constitution Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70808

A block of rooms is available until August 20, 2014 or until the block is sold out. Make your reservations early calling (800-EMBASSY) or online using the code "PPP" at www.embassysuites.com

King and Double room rates are \$109.00 per night. All rooms rates are subject to local sales and occupancy taxes.

2nd Annual LA Hands & Voices Fundraiser | 8/24/14 | Baton Rouge, La

When: Sunday August 24, 2014 1 to 4 pm

Where: Rock 'n' Bowl
3000 S. Carrollton
New Orleans, LA 70118

Cost: \$5.00 [pre-register] for Hands & Voices members, \$7.00 at door
\$10.00 [pre-register] for non-members (Open to public), \$12.00 at door
Includes bowling, shoes, food and soft drinks, 3 years and under admitted
Free



BACK 2 SCHOOL
bash14

Hands & Voices is a nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing

www.lahaandsandvoices.org

Need more information, call 504-919-8147 or 504-388-5712

