



# PROGRESS NOTES

November 1, 2013

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

LA AAP/ DHH Asthma Healthcare Provider Training | 11/19/13 | Hammond, La

Tulane Saturday Pediatric Series | 12/14/13 | New Orleans, La



## Bayou Health/ Medicaid

- **Deadline Extended for ACA Enhanced Reimbursement for Primary Care**
- **Open Enrollment Reminder about Provider Steerage**
- **Informational Bulletins**
- **Provider Calls**
- **NCCI Modifier –25 Important Update**

### **Deadline Extended for ACA Enhanced Reimbursement for Primary Care Services**

DHH has extended the deadline to submit a Medicaid Primary Care Services Designated Physician form and receive an effective date for enhanced reimbursement retrospective to January 1, 2013. In previous guidance, the deadline was June 28, 2013. The final deadline is now December 31, 2013. If your complete and correct form is received after December 31, 2013, you will receive enhanced reimbursement for eligible services rendered on or after the date the form is received.

[Click here to view the notice.](#)

### **Affordable Care Act Enhanced Reimbursement of Primary Care Services Informational Bulletin**

[Click here to view the informational bulletin.](#)

### **Open Enrollment Reminder about Provider Steerage**

Open enrollment for Bayou Health will soon begin in GSA-A. As a reminder, there are very specific rules on what providers can and cannot do with regards to information about health plans they are or are not participating in. As a reminder, DHH's informational Bulletin 12-31 (issued on 11/9/12) contains the guidelines providers are expected to follow. You can find the bulletin at: [http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational\\_Bulletins/IB12-31.pdf](http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational_Bulletins/IB12-31.pdf) Below is text from the bulletin.

All health care providers delivering services to Louisiana Medicaid and LaCHIP recipients enrolled in Bayou Health plans are welcome to inform their patients of the Bayou Health plans they have chosen to participate with, but Bayou Health has strict prohibitions against patient steering, which all providers must observe.

- Providers may inform their patients of all Health Plans in which they participate, and can inform patients of the benefits, services and specialty care services offered through the Health Plans in which they participate
- **Providers are not allowed to disclose on some of the Health Plans in which they participate.** Disclosure of Health Plan participate must be all or nothing.
- Providers can display signage, provided by the Health Plan, at their location indicating which Health Plans are accepted there, but must include all Health Plans in which they participate in this signage.
- If a provider participates in only one Bayou Health Plan, the provider can display signage for only one Health Plan and can tell a patient that is the only Health Plan accepted by that provider.
- Providers **MAY NOT RECOMMEND** one Health Plan over another Health Plan, **MAY NOT OFFER** patients incentives for selecting one Health Plan over another, or **MAY NOT ASSIST IN ANY WAY (faxing, using the office phone, computer in office, etc.)** the patient in deciding to select a specific Health Plan. Some assistance from providers was allowed through CommunityCARE participation but this program no longer exists and the above requirements **must strictly be observed.**
- Patients who need assistance with their Health Plan services should call the Member Services Hotline for the Plan in which they are enrolled, and those who wish to learn more about the different Health Plans should contact the Bayou Health Enrollment Broker at 1-855-BAYOU-4U to receive assistance in making a Health Plan decision.
- Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** is a provider allowed to change a member's Health Plan for him/her, or request a Health Plan reassignment on a member's behalf. **Members who wish to change Health Plans for cause must make this request to Medicaid themselves through the Bayou Health Enrollment Broker.**

These prohibitions against patient steering apply to participation in the Prepaid and Shared Savings Health Plans as well as the legacy Medicaid program.

## Informational Bulletins

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

### Provider Calls

The beginning of each call will begin with announcements from the Department and then will allow for time to address systemic issues with Bayou Health.

The weekly provider call hosted by DHH takes place every Wednesday at noon. Any provider is welcome to call in, and pre-registration is not required.

The call in number is 1-888-278-0296      Access code is 6556479#

## NCCI Modifier –25 Important Update

*The following was distributed at the Bayou Health Quality Committee meeting on Friday, 10/25/2013*

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**  
**Bayou Health Informational Bulletin 13-1**  
**Revised: October 25, 2013**

**Issue: National Correct Coding Initiative** (Preventive Care Codes vs. Immunization Administration Codes)

On January 1, 2013, new Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits were implemented in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) that paired immunization administration codes with preventive care codes. Billing these code combinations on the same date by the same provider could have resulted in the preventive medicine code being denied. CMS has subsequently decided, after receiving comments from the American Academy of Pediatrics and state Medicaid agencies, to permit states to deactivate these edits through the end of 2013, if they choose to do so. CMS stated, "It is understood that immunizations are commonly administered in conjunction with a comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and that, when this occurs, both services are payable." It would be expected by Louisiana Medicaid that all services provided are medically necessary and appropriately documented in the patient record. Further guidance from CMS for 2014 on the deactivation of these code pairs is expected.\*

**\*Update:** CMS has released updated guidance related to these services that no longer includes the option of deactivation of the code pairs. **Effective January 2014**, Louisiana Medicaid fee for service (legacy) and Bayou Health Shared Savings Plan claims processing must reactivate these edits. **However**, CMS does provide the following guidance that will allow both the immunization administration and the preventive medicine evaluation and management (E/M) service to be reimbursed.

*"If a Medicaid beneficiary receives one or more immunizations and a "significant, separately identifiable" preventive-medicine evaluation and management (E/M) service from the same provider on the same date of service, the provider's Medicaid claim(s) should include both the immunization administration code... and the comprehensive preventive-medicine E/M code...with modifier 25 appended...."*

*If the provider ...bills a comprehensive preventive-medicine E/M code for the same day and does not append modifier 25, the Medicaid PTP edits will deny payment of the preventive-medicine E/M code."*

Legacy Louisiana Medicaid and Bayou Health Shared Savings plan claims processing will reimburse both the immunization administration and the preventive medicine E/M services when modifier -25 is properly appended to the preventive medicine procedure code. Further details will be provided on [www.lamedicaid.com](http://www.lamedicaid.com) and in remittance advice messages closer to the implementation of this change.

All Bayou Health Prepaid Plans have implemented NCCI editing, but each may have a different billing policy related to the mandate. It is understood that the Prepaid Plans will allow appropriate use of modifier-25 if the code pairs in question are activated in their claim processing systems. Please contact the Prepaid Plans directly for information specific to their implementation, policies and any billing instructions.

For questions related to this information as it pertains to legacy Medicaid or Bayou Health Shared Savings Plans, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions Provider Services at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.

## **Practitioners Needed for Research Study on Teen Tobacco & Social Media Use**

The Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) research network is seeking pediatric primary care providers for a new research study: Adolescent Health in Pediatric Practice (AHIPP). **AHIPP aims to improve the quality of preventive services for adolescents, specifically related to tobacco cessation and social media use.**

The AHIPP study:

Offers training in counseling teens on smoking cessation or social media

- Is relevant to daily practice
- Is easy to incorporate into busy offices

**Qualifies for MOC Part 4 Credit!**

- Pays a small stipend to your practice
- Is ready for you to enroll in today

**We need pediatric practitioners that:**

- **Work in primary care practices**
- **See at least 1 adolescent per week**
- **Have at least a 10% smoking rate among their adolescent patients**

A few more details about AHIPP:

- Practices will be randomly assigned to either the tobacco cessation or social media arm of the study
- Participating practices will be asked to enroll 100 adolescents, regardless of smoking status, into the study. After the teen's initial visit, your study involvement with the teen will end and AHIPP staff will complete all follow-up.

**Full study information, including a recruitment video can be found at:**

<http://www2.aap.org/pros/smokevideo.htm>

Practitioners interested in participating in the AHIPP study should **contact** Julie Gorzkowski, Project Manager, at [AHIPP@aap.org](mailto:AHIPP@aap.org) or by phone at (847)434-7126.

**We need you to make this study a success! Thank you for your consideration.**

## **VFC Supply Update**

We received word today from J.T. Lane, Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health, that OPH has just received its final shipment of VFC vaccines and are prepping them for distribution. They expect to get formal communication to providers soon.

## DHH Kicks off Annual “Fight the Flu” Campaign

“You’ll be Thankful You Got Your Flu Shot”

*DHH urges everyone to get protected before the holidays*

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 | **Contact:** Media & Communications: Phone: 225.342.1532, E-mail: [dhhinfo@la.gov](mailto:dhhinfo@la.gov)

**BATON ROUGE, La.**—Today, the Department of Health and Hospitals officially kicked off its annual "Fight the Flu" campaign urging Louisianians in every corner of the state to get a flu vaccination. DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert reminded residents that a flu shot might be the difference between a happy or miserable holiday season.

"No one wants to be sick, especially during the holidays," said DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert. "If you travel, or have relatives coming to visit during the holidays, you need to be protected against the flu. You'll be thankful you got your flu shot. It's proven and effective in fighting seasonal flu and preventing the spread of this virus. We encourage everyone to get their seasonal flu shot to help protect not only themselves, but their families and friends as well."

Kliebert and Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne led by example today, getting their flu shots during a news conference at the East Baton Rouge Parish Health Unit, while LSU baseball coach Paul Mainieri, who has already gotten his flu shot, provided support. Across the state, regional health leaders and local celebrities held vaccination kickoff events, encouraging residents to fight the flu.

The flu vaccine, which the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends for anyone older than six months, is the best protection against getting the flu. Healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49 - those who are not pregnant and do not have chronic illnesses - also have the option to get the live, attenuated vaccine through nasal spray. People should consult their health professionals about whether the shot or the nasal spray is better for them.

Flu vaccines have been given for more than 50 years, with hundreds of millions of flu vaccines safely administered. Flu vaccines are safe and are closely monitored by the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration.

Every year, millions of individuals contract the flu, with more than 36,000 people in the U.S. dying from this virus and more than 200,000 going to the hospital. The flu is caused by the influenza virus, which is an infection of the respiratory system that causes fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, chills, fatigue and body aches. Most people who get the flu can treat their symptoms at home with rest and medication. But, for some people, the flu is a bigger threat and can cause more serious illnesses, such as pneumonia, or death.

Flu season began last month, but Louisiana's flu activity doesn't peak until January. This gives Louisianians enough time to get vaccinated. While everyone should get a flu vaccine, vaccination is especially critical for certain groups who are at higher risk of developing flu-related complications.

Groups considered at higher risk for flu complications include:

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Adults aged 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives seem to be at higher risk of flu complications
- People with medical conditions including:
  - Asthma (even if it's controlled or mild)
  - Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury]
  - Chronic lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and cystic fibrosis)
  - Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
  - Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
  - Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes mellitus)
  - Kidney disorders
  - Liver disorders
  - Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)

- Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People who are morbidly obese (Body Mass Index [BMI] of 40 or greater)

"Vaccination is also important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk individuals to keep from spreading flu to people who may be especially susceptible to the virus' effects," said State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry. "This includes anyone who works with babies younger than 6 months of age, who are not eligible for the vaccine, themselves."

Other people for whom vaccination is especially important are:

- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and;
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
- Health care workers;
- Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu, and;
- Household contacts and caregivers of children younger than 5 years of age with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children younger than 6 months of age (children younger than 6 months are at highest risk of flu-related complications but are too young to get vaccinated)

While the vaccine is the best protection, because the flu can spread from person-to-person through coughing, sneezing and casual contact, there are several preventive strategies everyone should practice to stop the spread of the flu. These include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If tissues are not available, cough or sneeze into your arm and not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu, a cold or a similar illness, you should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. Only leave your home for medical care or other necessities. This will prevent exposing others to your illness.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
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For more information on the flu and how to protect yourself, visit [www.dhh.louisiana.gov/FightTheFlu](http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/FightTheFlu).

## **Louisiana Chosen for Healthy Active Living Grant**

There were 14 AAP Chapter/ Pediatric Residency Program pairs that applied for the 2014-2015 Healthy Active Living Grants: Supporting Healthy Families. Louisiana was one of the 5 award winners chosen. The Louisiana Chapter will be working with the Our Lady of the Lake Residency Program to carry out the grant. The goal of the grant is to work together to build partnership with community organizations to develop and implement sustainable strategies to engage and support parents of young children through classes and/or home visits to establish healthy eating, activity and sleep behaviors. The grants are being funded by the MetLife Foundation and supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Louisiana project is called "Impacting Early Childhood Obesity through Parent Education." Below is a short summary of the project.

The goal of the "Impacting Early Childhood Obesity through Parent Education" proposal is to provide educational resources to improve the health of children birth to 5 years of age. Through this initiative a minimum of 200 parents will be educated by pediatric residents on modifiable evidence-based behaviors that impact young children's weight. Pediatric residents will partner with YWCA Early Head Start (EHS) staff to develop participatory learning activities, take-home materials, and brief trainings on nutrition, including recommended diet quality and quantity, parent feeding practices, and shared family meals, and on physical activity, including screen time, relevant to young children. Messages pertinent to each topic will be displayed in three EHS sites and will be reinforced by EHS staff during interactions with parents.

Additionally, pediatric residents will be educated by lead residents or faculty with expertise in nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding. This training will be relevant to engaging parents of children 0-5 years seen by the residents in clinic. We will identify or create materials that reinforce the provider training and will be easy guides for residents to use when encountering parents of young children. To supplement training, the same supportive take-home materials for the EHS families will be shared with residents to distribute to parents and expectant mothers making decisions about their child's pediatrician; thus, there will be consistent messaging across settings. Finally, the residents will be trained on motivational interviewing, an evidence-based practice to engage and encourage parents of young children to adopt recommendations regarding the targeted behaviors.

## SUIDA Recipe– Cinnamon Swirl Yogurt French Toast

Here's a clever and tasty way to make French toast. Use skim milk and low-fat yogurt to reduce saturated fat found in traditional French toast. The yogurt topping adds calcium, potassium and protein. This is a breakfast you can feel good about making of your kids.

### Makes 4 Servings

Prep Time: 10 min

Cook Time: 10 min

### Ingredients

#### French Toast

- 2 whole medium eggs
- 4 egg whites
- 1 cup fat free milk
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

8 pieces cinnamon swirl bread

#### Topping

- 16 ounces fat free plain yogurt
- 5 tablespoons maple syrup

2 cups coarsely chopped fresh fruit (i.e. grapes, strawberries, oranges, blueberries, peaches)

Combine the topping ingredients, except for fruit, in small mixing bowl. Refrigerate.

In a medium bowl, beat together eggs, milk, and cinnamon. Preheat a nonstick skillet over medium heat and lightly coat with nonstick cooking spray. Dip each piece of bread into the egg mixture and coat thoroughly. Place in skillet and cook for about 2 minutes on each side.

To serve, cut warm French toast on the diagonal. Arrange on plate. Top with fruit, then the yogurt mixture.

**Quick Tip:** To reduce prep time, use frozen French toast.

*Recipe created by Elizabeth Ward, M.S., R.D., mother of three and author of Healthy Foods, Healthy Kids (Adams Media, 2002)*

For more information and recipes visit [www.southeastdairy.org](http://www.southeastdairy.org)



## Upcoming Events

### LA AAP/ DHH Asthma Healthcare Provider Training | 11/19/13 | Hammond, La

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Department of Health and Hospitals Asthma Management and Prevention Program have partnered to bring a Free CME training to healthcare professionals.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this healthcare provider training session is to provide the state's highly qualified healthcare providers, nurses and respiratory therapist with tools as provided by the NAEPP Expert Panel Review-3 Guidelines for managing asthma long term and for managing exacerbations around four essential components of asthma care, namely: assessment and monitoring, patient education, control of factors contributing to asthma severity, and pharmacologic treatment.

The training will provide physicians and nurses with tools to take away from the session that will assist in establishing a partnership between the clinician and the person who has asthma (and the caregiver, for children) is required for effective asthma management while emphasizing the four components of asthma care which are:

- ⇒ Component 1: Assessing and Monitoring Asthma Severity and Asthma Control
- ⇒ Component 2: Education for a Partnership in Care
- ⇒ Component 3: Control of Environmental Factors and Comorbid Conditions That Affect Asthma
- ⇒ Component 4: Pulmonary Function and Medications

#### Training Date & Location

**DHH Region 9: North Shore Area (To register <http://www.asthma-hammond2013.eventbrite.com>)**

Tuesday, 11/19/13 | 6 pm Registration, 6:30 – 8:30 pm training, 2.0 hours of CME and nursing credits

La Quinta Inn & Suites | 42126 Veterans Avenue | Hammond, LA 70403

#### Continuing Education Credits

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) through joint sponsorship of Woman's Foundation, Inc. and Louisiana Asthma Prevention and Management Program. The Woman's Foundation, Inc. is accredited by Louisiana State Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Woman's Foundation, Inc. takes responsibility for the content, quality, and scientific integrity of this CME activity.

Woman's Foundation, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 2.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).

Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



This continuing nursing education activity was approved by Louisiana State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission of Accreditation.



**Tulane Saturday Pediatric Series | 12/14/13 | New Orleans, La**

**Tulane Saturday Pediatric Series  
Update on Pediatric Nutritional and Infectious Disease Topics  
December 14, 2013**

Registration 9:00 am – 10:00 am  
Conference 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

*Presented by*

**Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics  
and the Center for Continuing Education  
Tulane University Health Sciences Center**

*Location*

**Ralph's on the Park  
900 City Park Avenue  
New Orleans, LA**

*Topics will include:*

Update on Food Allergies  
Diagnosis and Treatment of Otitis Media & Sinusitis  
Update on Obesity / Metabolic Syndrome  
Managing Parental Immunization Refusal

This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*.

Registration Fee is \$35  
Online registration is open at <http://tulane.edu/cce/>

Know of something going on in your region you think others should know about?

Is there new research you want to share?

Are there things you think your colleagues need to know?

**Submit an article** for the next Progress Notes

