

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary
Bureau of Health Services Financing

Professional Services Program—Anesthesia Services

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing has adopted the following emergency rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and as directed by the 1996-97 General Appropriation Act, which states: "The Secretary shall implement reductions in the Medicaid program as necessary to control expenditures to the level approved in this schedule. The Secretary is hereby directed to utilize various cost containment measures to accomplish these reductions, including but not limited to pre-certification, pre-admission screening, and utilization review, and other measures as allowed by federal law". This emergency rule is adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing provides coverage for the injection of therapeutic or diagnostic anesthetic agents. It has been the policy of the bureau to provide reimbursement for anesthesia services provided on the day of surgery or delivery. However this policy has not been promulgated under the Administrative Procedure Act. The bureau has now determined that it is necessary to establish this policy under the Administrative Procedure Act and has adopted the following rule in accordance with the Act. In addition, CPT procedure code 00098 must be used when a period of several hours lapses between a delivery and the performance of a tubal ligation and the re-injection of the epidural catheter is required.

This action is necessary to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. It is anticipated that implementation of this emergency rule will save approximately \$137,326.50 for state fiscal year 1996-1997.

Emergency Rule

Effective for dates of services July 10, 1996 and thereafter, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopts the following policy governing the provision of anesthesia services under the Professional Services Program.

1. Anesthesia services are reimbursed for the day of surgery or delivery.
2. CPT procedure code 00098 must be used when a period of several hours lapses between a delivery and the performance of a tubal ligation and the re-injection of the epidural catheter is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Thomas D. Collins, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is

responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this emergency rule.

Bobby P. Jindal
Secretary

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