

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

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

Home Health Program.Home Health Services Definitions

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 and reimbursement for the delivery of home health services to Medicaid recipients in their homes under the Home Health Program. The department has now determined that it is necessary to define the provision of home health services under the Medicaid Program. Home health services are temporary or intermittent skilled nursing, nurse aide or physical therapy services designed to assist homebound patients with physical limitations caused by acute illness and/or surgery. Reimbursement for home health services is not provided when the principal diagnosis is a psychiatric diagnosis. Psychiatric services are available to Medicaid recipients through Mental Health services under the State Plan. Therefore, the following emergency rule has been adopted to define the provision of home health services under the Medicaid Program. This action will prevent duplication of services and ensure uniform authorization procedures for mental health services when appropriate. In addition, it is necessary to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. It is anticipated that implementation will reduce expenditures by approximately \$1,022,658 for state fiscal year 1996-1997.

Emergency Rule

Effective for dates of service August 1, 1996 and thereafter, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing defines the provision of home health services as those temporary or intermittent skilled nursing, nurse aide or physical therapy services designed to assist homebound patients with physical limitations caused by acute illness and/or surgery. Reimbursement for home health services is not provided when the principal diagnosis is a psychiatric diagnosis.

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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