



## **Attention Hospital Providers and Physicians Performing OB Delivery Services**

### **RE: Deliveries Prior to 39 Weeks**

Babies born prior to 39 weeks gestation for reasons that are not medically necessary have a high risk of spending their first days in the NICU unnecessarily. This unnecessary NICU admission is detrimental to the baby and also very costly for taxpayers. It is the intent of the Department of Health and Hospitals to not pay for deliveries prior to 39 weeks that are not medically necessary. This is a joint endeavor between Louisiana Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Effective with date of service September 1, 2014 forward, the Department intends to deny hospital and physician claims for the delivery of a baby prior to 39 weeks that is not medically necessary. Claims for the anesthesia related to the delivery will not be impacted by this policy.

The Department will use the Louisiana Electronic Event Registration System (LEERS) data from the Office of Public Health Vital Records to validate that the delivery was not prior to 39 weeks or if prior to 39 weeks, that it was medically necessary. Currently, LEERS creates a file on a monthly basis with the birth records and sends this data to Molina. The LEERS data will be changing to a weekly process so claims can be validated and processed more timely. Claims from the hospital, delivering physician (and assistant surgeon if applicable) for a delivery will be held within the Molina claims processing system until LEERS updates the birth record information for those claims. After the claims and LEERS are matched up, all claims will be allowed to continue processing unless LEERS indicates the delivery was prior to 39 weeks and not medically indicated.

#### **Instructions for Delivering Physicians and Hospitals:**

1. Following delivery, please select the corresponding medical reason from the [LEERS Singleton Births Below 39 Weeks Gestation Worksheet](#)
2. If there was no medical reason, select the "None, No medical reason" check box.

#### **If a provider feels a claim has been denied inappropriately, please follow these steps:**

1. The physician will need to log into LEERS to review the data they certified on the birth record.
2. The physician will then need to speak to the birth clerk at the facility to determine what data was entered on the birth record and whether an amendment needs to be requested if the data is not correct.

3. If what is on the birth record does not correspond with the file, the birth clerk may contact Vital Records LEERS Hotline at 504-593-5101. It is recommended that the birth clerk from the facility contact the hotline since they are more familiar with the birth record process.
4. If a facility needs to correct the data on the birth file, they may request an amendment form through the Vital Records LEERS Hotline at 504-593-5101. The completed form should be returned to Vital Records by the facility for processing. Vital Records will provide verification of this amendment to the hospital provider. This form will need to be attached to the claim and resubmitted via hard copy for payment to Molina Provider Relations Correspondence Unit. If the claim is for a shared plan member, providers should contact the shared plan for instructions on resubmission.