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**CHAPTER 37: PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

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## **PRESCRIBERS**

This section defines medical practitioners who are authorized to prescribe drugs covered by the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program. In addition, this section explains the requirement that all prescribers must have an individual Medicaid prescriber number and a National Provider Identifier (NPI) as a condition for prescription reimbursement by the program.

### **Qualified Prescribers**

The Medicaid Program provides reimbursement for prescriptions provided to eligible recipients under regulations governing the Pharmacy Program. The prescriptions may be written by appropriate professionals who are authorized to prescribe under state law and have prescriptive authority from his/her licensing board. A qualified prescriber must be an enrolled Medicaid provider.

### **Prescriber Numbers**

The integrity of the Pharmacy Program is dependent upon utilizing accurate data.

Each Medicaid prescriber is required to have an individual NPI and a Medicaid provider/prescriber number when submitting pharmacy claims for payment. In rare cases where a prescriber does not have a NPI, or the pharmacy cannot obtain the NPI, the pharmacy may substitute the prescriber's Medicaid identification number in the claim submission. The system will only allow claims to be submitted with a seven-digit individual prescribing practitioner Medicaid identification number.

Prescribing practitioners who deliver health care services in state-operated mental health clinics, developmental centers and public health clinics must also have an assigned individual prescriber identification number and a NPI in order for the prescription to be reimbursed by the Medicaid Program.

Individual prescriber identification numbers are issued to all interns, residents and fellows currently in training.

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**Prescribers Who Are Not Medicaid Program Providers**

Pharmacy providers may be reimbursed for prescriptions which are issued by prescribers who do not participate in the Medicaid Program but who have a valid Medicaid provider *prescriber only* number and a NPI.

If a prescribing practitioner does not have an individual Medicaid provider number, he/she should contact the fiscal intermediary (FI) Provider Enrollment Unit. (See Appendix D for contact information.)

**Sanctioned Prescribers**

The Medicaid Program will not reimburse pharmacy claims when the prescribing practitioner is sanctioned and/or is excluded from Medicaid program participation.

Edits have been placed on the prescriber identification numbers when prescriber licenses have been restricted, suspended or revoked. Pharmacy claims will be denied when the prescribing provider does not have prescriptive authority.

**Accessing Prescriber Numbers**

Pharmacy providers must make every effort to assure that the prescribing practitioner number billed is accurate. A listing of prescribing practitioner numbers is available on the Louisiana Medicaid website. This listing is updated monthly. (See Appendix D for information on accessing the website.)

Pharmacy providers may verify prescriber numbers by calling the Point of Sale (POS) Pharmacy Help Desk. (See Appendix 37.5.4 for contact information.)