

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**Department of Health  
Bureau of Health Services Financing**

**Nursing Facilities  
Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering Costs  
(LAC 50:II.20019)**

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 50:II.20019 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

In compliance with the directives of Act 540 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities to provide for the facility-specific reimbursement of documented and allowable evacuation and temporary sheltering costs of Medicaid-certified nursing facilities (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 38, Number 5).

The Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing now proposes to amend the provisions of the May 20, 2008 Rule governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing

facilities to amend the provisions governing evacuation and temporary sheltering costs in order to ensure that an evacuating nursing facility continues to receive vendor payments while providing essential care and services to residents at a host site when they are displaced. This action is being taken to avoid imminent peril to the public health, safety or welfare of nursing facility residents by ensuring continued access to services during declared disasters. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will have no fiscal impact to the Medicaid Program in state fiscal year 2016-2017.

Effective October 13, 2016, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities to revise the provisions governing evacuation and temporary sheltering costs during a declared disaster or emergency event.

**Title 50**

**PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
Part II. Nursing Facilities  
Subpart 5. Reimbursement**

**Chapter 200. Reimbursement Methodology**

**§20019. Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering Costs**

**[Formerly LAC 50:VII.1319]**

A. - B.1.b.iii.(a). ...

c. any additional allowable costs as defined in the CMS Publication 15-1-[21](#), last modified 9/~~28/2005~~[2012](#), that

are directly related to the evacuation and that would normally be allowed under the nursing facility case-mix rate.

B.2. - B.2.a.ii.(a). ...

b. care-related expenses as defined in LAC 50:~~VII.1305~~II.20005 and incurred in excess of care-related expenses prior to the evacuation;

c. - c.ii. ...

d. any additional allowable costs as defined in the CMS Publication 15-1-21, last modified 9/28/~~2005~~2012, that are directly related to the temporary sheltering and that would normally be allowed under the nursing facility case-mix rate.

B.3. - B.3.b.i. ...

C. Payment of Eligible Expenses

C.1. - C.2. ...

3. All eligible expenses documented and allowed under §~~1319~~-20019 will be removed from allowable expenses when the nursing facility's Medicaid cost report is filed. These expenses will not be included in the allowable cost used to set case-mix reimbursement rates in future years.

a. Equipment purchases that are reimbursed on a rental rate under §~~1319~~20019.B.2c may have their remaining basis included as allowable cost on future costs reports provided that the equipment is in the nursing facility and being used. If the remaining basis requires capitalization under CMS Publication

15-1-21 guidelines, last modified 9/28/~~2005~~2012, then depreciation will be recognized.

4. ...

D. When a nursing facility (NF) resident is evacuated to a temporary sheltering site (an unlicensed sheltering site or a licensed NF) for less than 24 hours, the Medicaid vendor payment to the evacuating facility will not be interrupted.

E. When a NF resident is evacuated to a temporary shelter site (an unlicensed sheltering site or a licensed NF) for greater than 24 hours, the evacuating nursing facility may submit the claim for Medicaid vendor payment for a maximum of five days, provided that the evacuating nursing facility provides sufficient staff and resources to ensure the delivery of essential care and services to the resident at the temporary shelter site.

F. When a NF resident is evacuated to a temporary shelter site, which is an unlicensed sheltering site, for greater than five days, the evacuating nursing facility may submit the claim for Medicaid vendor payment for up to an additional 15 days, provided that the evacuating nursing facility:

1. has received an extension to stay at the unlicensed shelter site; and

2. provides sufficient staff and resources to ensure the delivery of essential care and services to the resident, and

to ensure the needs of the resident are met.

G. When a NF resident is evacuated to a temporary shelter site, which is a licensed nursing home, for greater than five days, the evacuating nursing facility may submit the claim for Medicaid vendor payment for an additional period, not to exceed 55 days, provided that:

1. the host/receiving nursing home has sufficient licensed and certified bed capacity for the resident, or the host/receiving nursing home has received departmental and/or CMS approval to exceed the licensed and certified bed capacity for a specified period; and

2. the evacuating nursing facility provides sufficient staff and resources to ensure the delivery of essential care and services to the resident, and to ensure the needs of the resident are met.

H. If a NF resident is evacuated to a temporary shelter site which is a licensed NF, the receiving/host nursing home may submit claims for Medicaid vendor payment under the following conditions:

1. beginning day 2 and continuing during the "sheltering period" and any extension period, if the evacuating nursing home does not provide sufficient staff and resources to ensure the delivery of essential care and services to the resident and to ensure the needs of the residents are met;

2. upon admission of the evacuated residents to the host/receiving nursing facility; or

3. upon obtaining approval of a temporary hardship exception from the department, if the evacuating NF is not submitting claims for Medicaid vendor payment.

I. Only one nursing facility may submit the claims and be reimbursed by the Medicaid Program for each Medicaid resident for the same date of service.

J. A nursing facility may not submit claims for Medicaid vendor payment for non-admitted residents beyond the expiration of its extension to exceed licensed (and/or certified) bed capacity or expiration of its temporary hardship exception.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 34:879 (May 2008), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 42:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments to Jen Steele, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030 or by email to MedicaidPolicy@la.gov. Ms. Steele is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH

Secretary