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GOVERNOR



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State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health

STANDING ORDER

FOR HIV PRE- AND POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS MEDICATIONS

Background and Purpose

HIV presents an ongoing public health concern in the United States, with Louisiana consistently ranking among the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses in the nation. PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) are regimens that use antiretroviral medications to prevent the transmission of HIV. PrEP and PEP are part of a comprehensive HIV prevention plan (including education, screening for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), stigma reduction, and other risk-reduction methods) for people without HIV who may be exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use.

The Louisiana Legislature has adopted Act 711 of 2024 (R.S. 37:1218.2), which enables pharmacists to independently dispense and/or administer HIV PrEP and PEP medications and order/interpret related rapid or laboratory testing. This statute will ensure increased access to the people most at risk for contracting HIV within Louisiana and establish equitable reimbursement of pharmacists for the services they perform when dispensing and/or administering HIV PrEP and PEP therapies.

The Louisiana Department of Health has developed a statewide protocol for pharmacist-initiated HIV PrEP and PEP regimens, including training, reimbursement, records, and patient privacy requirements, pursuant to R.S. 37:1218.2.

Authorization

The standing order is issued in compliance with and under the authority of LA R.S. 37:1218.2 and shall be deemed a medical order for any FDA-approved or CDC-recommended HIV PrEP or PEP therapy, as long as all conditions of the statewide protocol for R.S. 37:1218.2 are met. This standing order shall be valid for one year from the date of issue below.

Training and Instructional Materials

In accordance with the statewide protocol on pharmacist-initiated HIV PrEP and PEP, the pharmacist dispensing and/or administering the PrEP or PEP medications must have completed the required training to do so and must follow the protocol for patient assessment, counseling, records, reporting, and provider referrals.

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Dosage and Refills

Refills may be obtained as needed pursuant to this order and the statewide protocol. Dosage must be according to CDC guidelines and package insert information for all regimens.

Reimbursement

For reimbursement purposes, it is necessary to have the medication dispensed in the name of the insured. This standing order authorizes the pharmacist to prepare a prescription for HIV PrEP or PEP medication regimens, with refills authorized, in the name of the insured and then dispense and/or administer that product. Pharmacists who dispense and/or administer HIV PrEP and PEP medications pursuant to this standing order shall be reimbursed at the same rate as other clinical providers of the same services.

All health coverage plans, third-party administrators, and pharmacy benefit managers operating within the state of Louisiana shall establish the process for pharmacists to enroll as providers for the purposes of dispensing and/or administering HIV PrEP and PEP, equivalent to the process established for other providers.

A pharmacist authorized to provide any service relative to HIV PrEP and PEP shall be reimbursed at the same rate as any other participating healthcare provider providing such service in accordance with the patient's health coverage plan.

This section shall not be construed to require a health coverage plan, a third-party administrator, or a pharmacy benefit manager to reimburse a pharmacist or pharmacy as an in-network or preferred provider.

The provisions of this Section may apply to coverage under a group or individual health coverage plan provided to a resident of this state regardless of whether the health coverage plan policy, contract, or other agreement is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state.

No health coverage plan, third-party administrator, or pharmacy benefit manager operating within the state of Louisiana shall deny any pharmacy the opportunity to participate in the PrEP/PEP program offered in this state in any manner that will restrain a consumer's right to select a pharmacy of their choosing.

The provisions of this Section may apply to coverage under a group or individual health coverage plan provided to a resident of this state regardless of whether the health coverage plan policy, contract, or other agreement is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state.

Recordkeeping

To comply with the recordkeeping requirements found in the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy rules and regulations, the pharmacist shall attach a copy of this standing order to the appropriate prescription record and store it with the other distribution records in the pharmacy.

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I hereby declare this standing order as a statewide medical order for the dispensing and administration of FDA-approved PrEP and PEP medications as long as the requirements of LA R.S. 37:1218.2 and all Louisiana Board of Pharmacy regulations are satisfied. Any pharmacy licensed by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and in compliance with the terms of the statewide protocol for R.S. 37:1218.2 may rely on this standing order for the dispensing and administration of FDA-approved PrEP and PEP medications to any Louisiana resident.

DocuSigned by:
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Juliette M. Saussy, MD

Date of Issue

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