

May 2021

OVERVIEW:

Aetna Better Health of Louisiana (ABHLA) is aligned with the Louisiana Department of Health's Medicaid Services Manual, and would like to remind providers to refer to these manuals when submitting claims. If the manual requires additional guidance impacting reimbursement, the details will be outlined by ABHLA in the Provider Manual or in a supporting reimbursement policy.

The Louisiana Department of Health has issued an update to the Louisiana Medicaid Professional Services manual. The update affects the number of obstetric ultrasounds which will be reimbursed along with guidelines for special circumstances.

"Three obstetric ultrasounds shall be reimbursed per pregnancy (270 days) when medically necessary and performed by providers other than maternal fetal medicine specialists:

- *When an obstetric ultrasound is performed for an individual with multiple gestations, leading to more than one procedure code being submitted, this shall only be counted as one obstetric ultrasound; and*
- *Obstetric ultrasounds performed in inpatient hospital, emergency department, and labor and delivery triage settings are excluded from this count.*

Payment for additional ultrasounds may be considered when medically necessary and must be submitted with the appropriate documentation. Documentation must include evidence of an existing condition or indicate that the ultrasound is necessary to rule out a suspected abnormality.

If more than three ultrasounds must be performed due to multiple pregnancies (failed or completed) within 270 days, providers must submit a hardcopy claim and attach documentation with each submission for these subsequent ultrasounds indicating a previous pregnancy within 270 days."

The above new Obstetrical Ultrasound policy is effective June 12, 2021. ABHLA is in the process of updating its Provider Manual and configuring its system to align with the new policy.

Please note that providers may see reimbursement impacted if not aligned to the Louisiana Department of Health's Medicaid services manual within 30 days of the date of this reminder notification.

Questions and Support:

For questions, please contact LAProvider@AETNA.com or call 1-855-242-0802 and follow the prompts.