



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

LA HFMA Summer Institute

August 26, 2024

2024 Regular Session Summary

- General Session: Unlimited General Subject-Matter Bills; No Fiscal/Tax Bills
- Convened March 11
- Adjourned June 3
- 1,491 Total Bills
- 982 House Bills; 509 Senate Bills
- 223 Concurrent Resolutions
- LHA Actively Monitored 143 Pieces of Legislation



Workforce Legislation

- **HB 329: Rep. Brach Myers (R-Lafayette)**
 - Transfers administration of the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (HERO) Fund from the Board of Regents to LDH
 - Establishes a new grant program to fund innovative partnerships between the industry and educational training programs
 - Aims to expand capacity of those programs and the ability to meet the state's needs
 - Includes appropriate flexibility to allow proposals to meet varying challenges in different markets
 - Act 607 is effective July 1, 2024.

Workforce Legislation

- **HB 972: Rep. Daryl Deshotel (R-Marksville)**
 - Creates a licensure pathway for physicians educated and trained outside of the U.S. or Canada
 - Requires that internationally-trained physicians submit documentation to LSBME that shows their training and education are equivalent to those in the U.S.
 - Must be employed by a hospital during their first two years of licensure in Louisiana
 - Act 646 is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Behavioral Health Legislation

- **HB 849: Rep. John Illg (R-Harahan)**
 - In addition to requiring a facility to accept collateral information provided by the patient's family or caregivers, requires hospitals to make a reasonable effort to do the following when a patient is admitted pursuant to an emergency certificate:
 - Notify any healthcare professional that is currently providing BH services to the patient of the date/time patient is scheduled for discharge;
 - Provide written or telephonic notification with 24 hours of discharge to any healthcare provider that the patient is being referred to by the facility for follow-up BH services; and
 - Provide the patient with certain educational documents published by LDH.
 - [Act 737](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Behavioral Health Legislation

- **HB 868: Rep. Peter Egan (R-Covington)**
 - Requires LDH to study and make recommendations for new or revised standards to improve health outcomes and to submit a report to the legislature by March 31, 2025
 - Provides for increased accountability for psychiatric facilities
 - Act 743 is effective Aug. 1, 2024.
- **SCR 23: Sen. Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)**
 - Requests LDH to perform a comprehensive study on access to behavioral health services across the state and to report the findings and recommendations from the study to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2025
 - SCR 23 was enrolled on May 15.

Behavioral Health Legislation

- **HB 846: Rep. Alonzo Knox (D-New Orleans)**
 - Requires the Louisiana Division of Administration to submit an annual report to the legislature that delineates the federal and state funding allocated to providing behavioral health services across all agencies of the state
 - Requires a similar report to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education that delineates the federal and state funding allocated to providing behavioral health services within the department and schools across the state
 - Act 455 is effective July 1, 2024.

Hospitals/Healthcare

- **HB 372: Rep. Raymond Crews (R-Bossier)**
 - Creates the “Ambulance Patient Offload Delay Collaborative” to study and make recommendations on how to mitigate ambulance patient offload delays, aka “wall time”
 - The LHA and the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance are named as participants in the collaborative.
 - A report of the collaborative’s findings is required to be submitted to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2025.
 - [Act 691](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Hospitals/Healthcare

- **SB 325: Sen. Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)**
 - Requires that within 72 hours of a healthcare provider making a diagnosis of fetal abnormality, the provider must provide to the pregnant woman an LDH-developed informational document that includes resources, programs, and services for pregnant women and for infants and children born with disabilities
 - [Act 332](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.
- **SB 55: Sen. Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)**
 - Requires hospitals to provide mothers and their family members with LDH-developed information about “post-birth warning signs”
 - [Act 122](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Hospitals/Healthcare

- **SB 487: Sen. Stewart Cathey (R-Monroe)**
 - Requires hospitals to specifically test for the presence of fentanyl when any minor presents to the hospital as a result of a suspected opioid overdose
 - Requires reporting the presence of a positive test in a deidentified manner to LDH
 - [Act 769](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.
- **HB 976: Rep. Charles Owen (R-Rosepine)**
 - Requires hospitals to allow visitation by an individual who the patient deems an essential caregiver
 - That individual is required to abide by all hospital visitation policies and procedures.
 - [Act 666](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Health Insurance

- **SB 58: Sen. Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)**
 - Builds on provisions established by Act 254 of 2023, Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act, and creates penalties when health plans deny prior authorizations for certain cancer services
 - [Act 162](#) is effective May 23, 2024.

Health Insurance

- **SB 219: Sen. Patrick McMath (R-Covington)**
 - Creates new requirements for mutual company conversions when the conversion is associated with an acquisition, including market conduct reviews and LDI approval of marketing materials sent to qualified policy holders, as well as provides for when the vote is to be held of the policy holders and changes the vote requirements
 - Act 149 is effective May 22, 2024.

Maternal Health

- **SB 143: Sen. Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)**
 - Requires healthcare providers who provide prenatal and postpartum care to screen women for the signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia through a validated screening tool
 - [Act 299](#) is effective May 28, 2024.
- **SB 148: Sen. Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton)**
 - Prohibits health plans from subjecting prescriptions for drugs that treat postpartum depression to step therapy or fail-first protocols
 - [Act 301](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Maternal Health

- **SB 300: Sen. Royce Duplessis (D-New Orleans)**
 - Requires health plans that provide benefits for maternity services to include coverage for pregnancy-related nutrition counseling provided by a licensed dietician or nutritionist in the first trimester of pregnancy
 - Requires health plans to provide coverage for services provided by a qualified lactation care provider
 - [Act 762](#) is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Medicaid

- **HB 558: Rep. Chris Turner (R-Ruston)**
 - Expands existing law to allow local governing bodies to implement local hospital assessments and use the proceeds of those assessments to fund intergovernmental transfers from the parish to the state to provide the nonfederal share of a program of Medicaid payments for the benefit of hospitals in the parish
 - [Act 432](#) is effective June 3, 2024.

Medicaid

- **SB 190: Sen. Gerald Boudreaux (D-Lafayette)**
 - Requires LDH to develop a plan for increased reimbursement rates for physicians equal to 100% of the Medicare program.
 - LDH is required to submit the plan to the legislature no later than Nov. 1, 2024.
 - Act 306 is effective Aug. 1, 2024.

Medicaid

- **HCR 3: Rep. Jack McFarland (R-Jonesboro)**
 - Maintains the hospital base-rate increases and continues the hospital and LPR directed payment programs
 - LDH is required to submit the plan to the legislature no later than Nov. 1, 2024.
 - [HCR 3](#) was enrolled on June 2.

Medicaid Directed Payment Program

- **SFY 2022 – 2023**
 - Final reconciliation calculations were completed earlier this year.
 - Actual reconciliation will be reflected through adjustments to Q1 SFY 2024-25 payments.
- **SFY 2023 – 2024**
 - Payment period has been completed; runout period is underway; and LDH continues to provide periodic estimates.
 - Reconciliation calculations will occur early CY 2025 and the process is expected to follow a similar cadence to SFY 22-23.

Medicaid Directed Payments: Looking Ahead

CMS has recently undertaken rulemaking that affects Medicaid supplemental payment programs.

- LDH and its contractor are working to fully understand any operational impacts to our programs and how to address in future years.
- LDH continues to engage with the LHA and its members for dialogue and input on future program design.
- The Department will likely evaluate various policy-driven components of future programs including, but not limited to, services, acuity, quality program intersection, and access.

Medicare IPPS Final Rule

CMS issued the FFY 2025 IPPS Final Rule on Aug. 1.

- Increases inpatient payment rates by net 2.9%
- Estimated net impact of approximately \$52M for Louisiana hospitals before sequestration (after, \$26.3M)
- Other provisions of note include, but are not limited to:
 - Establishes a new mandatory CMMI model that will provide bundled payment for five surgical procedures
 - Creates a separate IPPS payment for small, independent hospitals to establish and maintain access to essential medicines
 - Distributes new GME slots under section 4122 of CAA 2023
 - Modifies questions and sub-measures in HCAHPS

Medicare OPPS Proposed Rule

CMS issued the CY 2025 OPPS Proposed Rule.

- Proposed increase of outpatient payment rates by 2.6%
- Estimated impact of \$39M for Louisiana hospitals before sequestration (after, \$17.9M)
- Other proposed provisions of note include, but are not limited to:
 - Pay separately for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals with per-day costs above a threshold of \$630
 - Exclude qualifying cell and gene therapies from comprehensive ambulatory payment (C-APC) packaging
 - Implement temporary additional payments for certain non-opioid treatments for pain relief dispensed in the HOPD and ASC settings

Quality Improvement Activities for 2023-24

LHA and LHA Foundation Quality Initiatives

- **89 Hospitals** engaged in the HQIC or QII.
- **122 Site Visits** were conducted, along with coaching calls and sprints to further peer-to-peer sharing.
- **484 Hospital Employees** participated in LHA Foundation/Convergence Health webinars focused on opioids, perinatal safety, care transitions, patient and family engagement, workforce well-being, social drivers of health, high-reliability, CAHs, and a quality mentorship series.
- **84 Hospitals** improved in at least one clinical measure reported to the LHA and received a Clinical Quality Improvement Award.

Louisiana Alliance for Patient Safety PSO

- **75 Hospitals** are participating in the Louisiana Alliance for Patient Safety PSO.
- **25 Facilities** are engaged in the Communication & Resolution Collaborative.



Emergency Preparedness Activities

- **2023-2024 Activities:**
 - **HPP Grant:** 23rd year with \$1.4 million distributed for HCCs
 - **Planning & Exercise Initiatives:**
 - Co-developed the State ESF-8 Chemical Surge Annex
 - Organized more than 55 training, education, and exercise opportunities with 800+ hospital encounters, including Chemical and Radiologic Surge Annexes tabletop exercises and functional/virtual hurricane exercises
 - **Event Response:** Mississippi River Salt-Water Intrusion, Wildfire Outbreak, I-55 Super Fog Mass-Casualty Incident, and Winter/Freeze
- **Looking Ahead:**
 - Entering 5-Year HPP Grant Project Period focused on community planning, including communities most impacted by disasters
 - Expanding HCC membership to include other partners, such as a Dialysis DRC network
 - Requiring assessments of hospitals and HCC members, including readiness, cybersecurity, and extended downtime



Education & Endorsed Programs

EDUCATION

3,691
Members Educated

82
Virtual Programs Hosted

39
In-Person Programs Held

10,000+
CEUs Offered

LHA SOLUTIONS ENDORSED PROGRAMS

LHA | SOLUTIONS

vizient

Qualivis

JACKSON
Physician Search

Airgas Healthcare
an Air Liquide company

 **UMC**
SOLUTIONS

 **MW**
MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

LAC
LA CREDENTIALS

SUNRx

MedImpact

 **LHA**
TRUST
FUNDS

 **SpectraCorp**

CommerceHealthcare

HFA
HEALTHCARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INC.



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