

September 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 updated [Informational Bulletin \(IB\) 21-15 \(Revised 9/22/2021\) General Anesthesia and Facility Reimbursement Increase for Dental Treatment Provided in a Hospital Outpatient Setting](#).

General anesthesia for dental procedures is a necessary part of surgical services for some children and, when clinically indicated, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In an effort to increase access to these necessary services and reduce wait lists, House Bill 1 of the 2021 regular legislative session provides funding to increase facility and general anesthesia reimbursement when dental treatment is provided in a hospital outpatient setting.

In alignment with IB 21-15, the effective date of service for the following rate increases is July 1, 2021:

**General Anesthesia**

Additional reimbursement of \$20.00 per time unit (each time unit is equal to 15 minutes).

**Anesthesia providers**

To receive the additional reimbursement, modifier -23 must be appended to the anesthesia CPT code 00170 in addition to other appropriate anesthesia modifiers when a dental procedure is performed. The general anesthesia reimbursement formula has been revised to calculate the additional reimbursement. The additional reimbursement will be applied after all other calculations take place.

The updated Anesthesia chapter of the Professional Services manual will be published following the completion of the public posting process. The fee-for-service Anesthesia Fee Schedule has been updated to reflect this additional calculation as part of the general anesthesia formula-based reimbursement.

ABHLA is updating its claims processing systems to accommodate the additional reimbursement and will be ready to accept claims no later than 60 days from the publishing of the updated Anesthesia fee schedule available on the Louisiana Medicaid website.

### Facility Reimbursement

Additional reimbursement of at least \$400.00 per procedure.

Hospital Providers

To receive the additional reimbursement, CPT code 41899 must be used.

ABHLA is updating its claims processing systems to accommodate the additional facility reimbursement and will be ready to accept claims no later than 60 days from the publishing of the updated Outpatient Hospital Ambulatory Surgery fee schedule available on the Louisiana Medicaid website.

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](mailto:LAProvider@AETNA.com) or call 1-855-242-0802 and follow the prompts.