#### Behavioral Health Webinar for Professional Providers

For the listening benefit of webinar attendees, we have muted all lines and will be starting our presentation shortly.

- This helps prevent background noise (e.g., unmuted phones or phones put on hold) during the webinar.
- This also means we are unable to hear you during the webinar.
- Please submit your questions directly through the webinar platform.

#### **How to submit questions:**

- Open the Q&A feature at the top of your screen to type your question related to today's training webinar
- In the "Send to" field, select "All Panelists."
- Once your question is typed in, hit the "Send" button to send it to the presenter.
- We will address submitted questions at the end of the webinar.





### **Behavioral Health Webinar**

**Professional Providers** 

Nov. 2025

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

HCPCS 2025 © 2025 Practice Management Information Corporation.

#### **WELCOME!**

#### Today's presentation will take you on a journey through:

- ✓ network participation as a behavioral health provider
- √ using iLinkBlue
- ✓ researching member benefits
- ✓ authorization requirements
- √ filing claims in iLinkBlue
- ✓ resolving claim issues
- √ telehealth
- √ billing guidelines
- ✓ provider support







Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, Louisiana Blue will manage all authorization and case management processes for behavioral health services. This includes behavioral health services for Louisiana Blue and Blue Advantage members.

#### What's Changing:

- Louisiana Blue will manage all behavioral health authorizations and care management.
- Appeals for medical necessity denials will go directly to Louisiana Blue.

#### What's Not Changing:

- Your patients' benefits and coverage.
- The behavioral health services we offer to members.

Lucet will no longer manage these services. Providers should submit authorization requests via iLinkBlue (www.lablue.com/ilinkblue) under the "authorizations" menu option.

## **Network Participation**



# Credentialing is Required for Network Participation



### Network Participation

Louisiana Blue credentials all practitioners and facilities that participate in our networks.

We partner with **Medallion** to conduct credentialing verification processes for our commercial networks.

### **Network Participation**

To join our networks, you must complete and submit documentation to start the credentialing process or to obtain a provider record.

- Go to the Join Our Networks page, then select Professional Providers or Facilities and Hospitals to find:
  - Credentialing packets
  - Quick links to the Provider Update Request Form
  - Credentialing criteria for professional, facility and hospital-based providers
  - Frequently asked questions (FAQs)



### **Credentialing Criteria**

To join our networks, you must complete and submit documentation to start the credentialing process or to obtain a provider record.

View the *Credentialing Criteria* for these professional provider types at www.lablue.com/providers >Network Enrollment >Join Our Networks >Professional Providers >Credentialing Process.

Applied Behavioral Analyst (ABA)

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Doctor of Osteopathic (DO)

Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

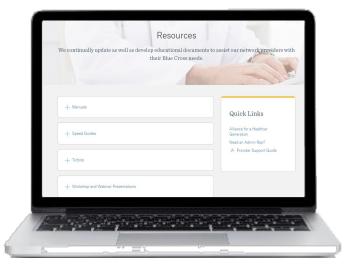
Physician Assistant (PA)

Psychologist (Ph.D)

### Learn More About Credentialing

For full information on how to complete the credentialing/recredentialing processes, view our Provider Credentialing & Data Management Webinar presentation. It is available online at www.lablue.com/providers >Resources >Workshops & Webinars.





**To attend this webinar**, registration links are in our upcoming Provider Weekly Digests.

➤ Workshops

2025 Professional Workshop:
 ➤ Session A | ► Session B
 ➤ 2024 Facility Workshop

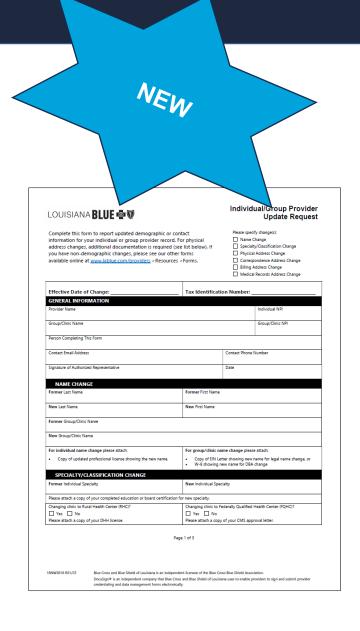
Recent Webinars
 ➤ 2025 iLinkBlue Webinar
 ➤ 2025 BlueCard Webinar
 ➤ 2025 New to Louisiana Blue Webinar - Professional
 ➤ 2025 New to Louisiana Blue Webinar - Facility
 ➤ 2025 Provider Credentialing and Data Management

### **Updating Your Information**

Use the Individual/Group Provider Update Request form to update:

- Name
- Specialty/Classification
- Physical address
- Correspondence address and fax number
- Billing address
- Medical records address and fax number

It is important to keep this information up to date. There is only one correspondence email address on file. This is the address all important communications and recredentialing information is sent.



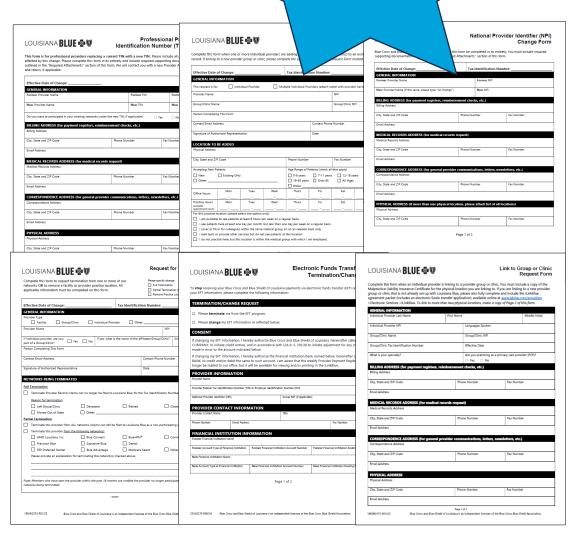
The form is available online at <a href="https://www.lablue.com/providers">www.lablue.com/providers</a> > Resources > Forms.

### **Updating Your Information**

Other update forms can be found on our Provider page (www.lablue.com/providers) >Resources >Forms include:

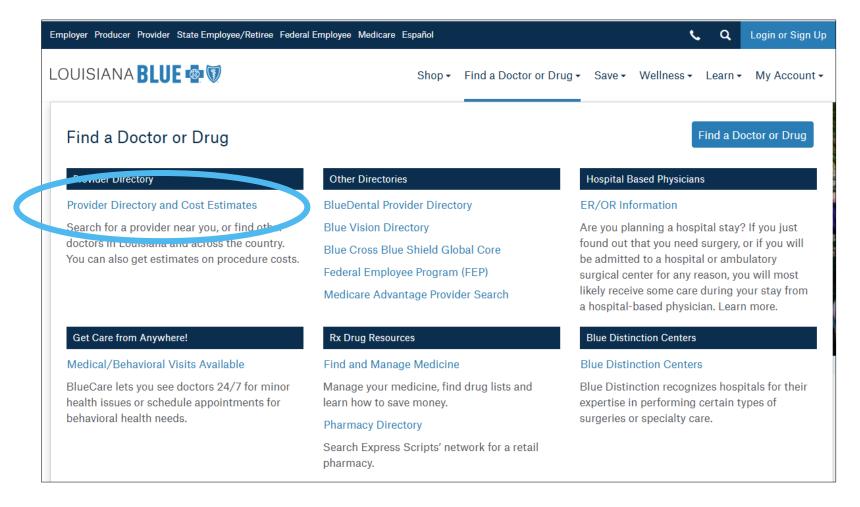
- Professional Provider TIN Change is to report a change in your Tax ID number.
- Add Practice Location is for when a provider is adding practice location(s) on an existing Tax ID.
- National Provider Identifier Change
- Request for Termination is to request termination from one or more of our networks.
- EFT Termination or Change to update your EFT information.
- Link to Group or Clinic is used to link an individual provider to an existing provider group or clinic.

Individuals who are credentialed and linked to clinic groups or clinic groups that have individual providers linked will complete the professional forms.



#### Online Provider Directories

Louisiana Blue offers many networks. All providers do not participate in all networks. In order to maximize benefits for your patients, you need to know which networks you participate in. This information can be found online at www.lablue.com >Find a Doctor or Drug >Provider Directory and Cost Estimates



#### Online Provider Directories

#### Keeping your information up to date with us is extremely important to help our members find you.

We publish demographic information in our online provider directory. The directory is available on our website at www.lablue.com.

- Addresses (location information)\*
- Phone numbers
- Accepting new patients
- Providers working at certain locations
- Information about telehealth services (telehealth/virtual-only providers are identified as such and address is not displayed)

For professional providers to be listed in our directories, they must be available to schedule patients' appointments a **minimum of 8 hours per week** at the location listed.

\*Limit of 10 locations per provider per TIN.



It is the contractual responsibility of all participating providers to notify Louisiana Blue when they leave a group or location, as well as to keep all other information current. To report changes in your information, use the **Individual/Group Provider Update Request** form. Our Provider Credentialing & Data Management Department will work with you to help ensure your information is current and accurate.

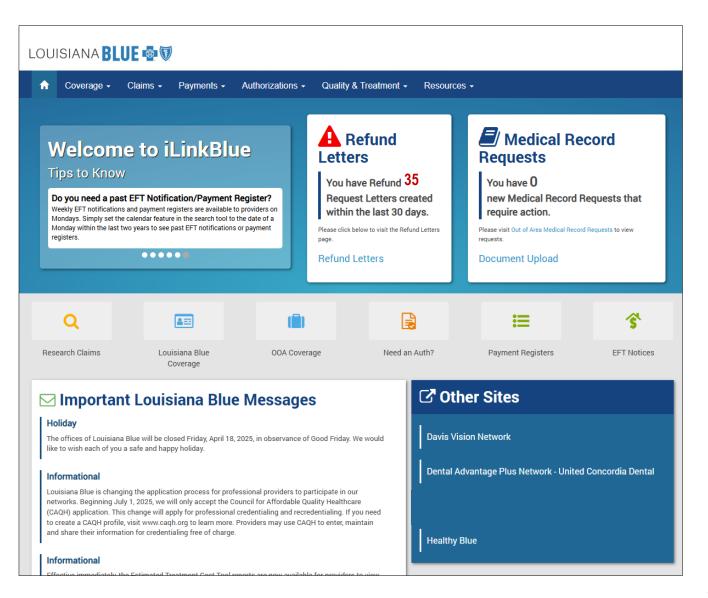
# Using iLinkBlue



#### What is iLinkBlue?

iLinkBlue is Louisiana Blue's secure online provider portal.

www.lablue.com/ilinkblue



### Accessing iLinkBlue

Louisiana Blue requires that provider organizations have at least one administrative representative to manage our secure online services.



#### Administrative representative duties include:

- Identify users at your organization who will need access to our secure online services.
- Assign individual user access to the appropriate applications.
- Manage users and terminate user access when it is no longer needed.
- Contact our Provider Identity Management (PIM) Team at PIMteam@lablue.com or 1-800-716-2299, option 5 with questions.

Detailed instructions and the Administrative Representative Registration Packet can be found on our Provider page at <a href="https://www.lablue.com/providers">www.lablue.com/providers</a> >Electronic Services >Admin Reps.

#### **Passwords**

Passwords must be eight positions and contain a number, an uppercase letter, a lowercase letter and one special character (~! @#\$%^&). Do not use your browser's password manager function to save or store your password. This can prevent you from changing your password when it expires.

iLinkBlue accounts that are not accessed for 180 days are locked due to inactivity. Reach out to your administrative representative to have your account reset.



If you are the administrative representative and need your password reset, reach out to the Provider Identity Management (PIM) Team.

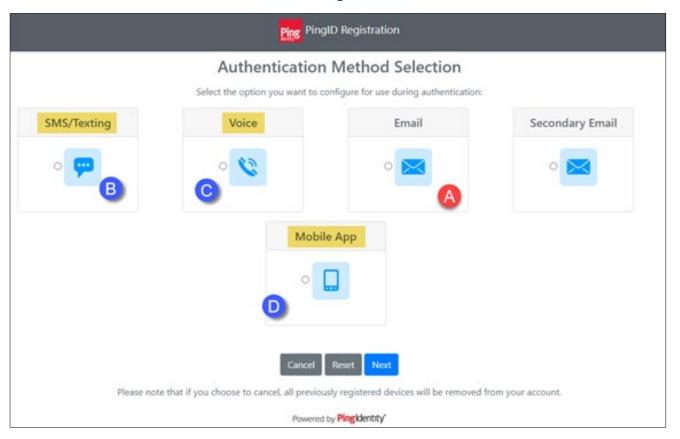


Phone: 1-800-716-2299, option 5 (Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Email: PIMteam@lablue.com

#### Multi-factor Authentication

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is required to securely access iLinkBlue. MFA is a security feature that delivers a unique identifier passcode via email, text and other formats. To set up MFA, you must register an authentication method with PingID.



- We recommend registering <u>two or more</u> options for account recovery.
- When you log into iLinkBlue, PingID will send a passcode to your registered method and prompt you to enter it on your computer.
- If your email or phone number should change, you
  must contact our PIM Department
  (PIMteam@lablue.com) to delete the old
  information and add the new.

### Navigating iLinkBlue

#### **Top Navigation**

The top navigation streamlines iLinkBlue functions under six menus. When you click a menu option, a submenu appears that includes relevant features.

#### **Quick Links**

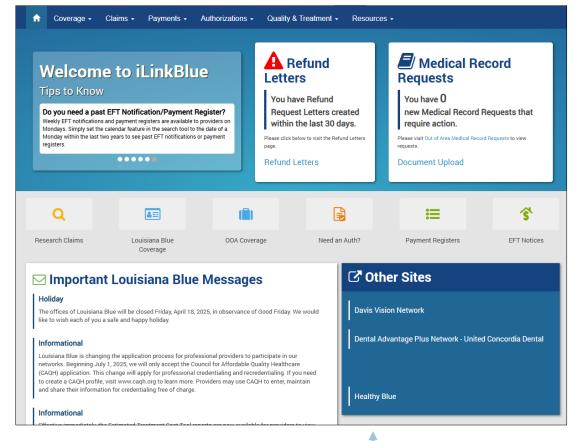
This area contains shortcuts to the six most-used iLinkBlue functions.

#### **Message Board**

Contains up-to-the minute posts for upcoming events, new features, system outages, holiday notices and other important bulletins.

#### **Refund Letters**

Providers now have a shortcut to check/search for Refund Request Letters.



**Other Sites** 

Includes quick access to other sites providers might need to access.

## Member Benefits

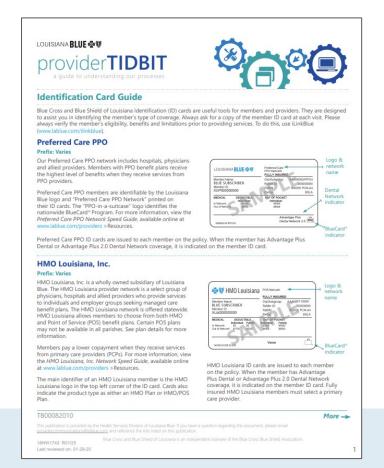


### Louisiana Blue's Provider Networks

Louisiana Blue offers several provider networks that are tied to our members' benefit plans.

These networks include:

- Preferred Care PPO
- HMO Louisiana, Inc.
- Blue Connect
- BlueHPN
- Community Blue
- Precision Blue
- Signature Blue



Our Identification Card Guide Provider Tidbit is a guide to identify members' applicable.

identify members' applicable networks when looking at the ID card. Go to www.lablue.com/providers, click "Resources," then "Provider Tidbits."

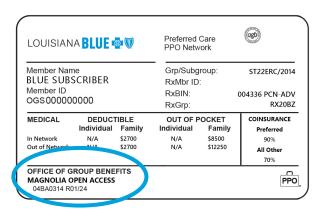
#### PPO and HMO Available Statewide

#### **Preferred Care PPO**

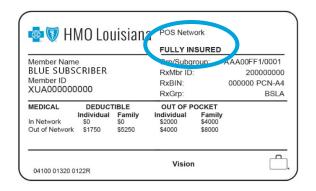


#### **Fully Insured vs. Self-funded:**

"Fully Insured" notation



#### **HMO** Louisiana, Inc.



- "Fully Insured" NOT noted
- Self-funded group name listed

### Federal Employee Program

- Prefix: R (followed by 8 digits)
- The Federal Employee Program (FEP) provides benefits to federal employees and their dependents.
   These members use the Preferred Care PPO Network.







Basic
In-network benefits
No out-of-network benefits



Blue Focus
Limited in-network benefits
No out-of-network benefits

### BlueCard® Program

- BlueCard® is a national program that enables members of any Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Plan to obtain healthcare services while traveling or living in another BCBS Plan service area.
- The main identifiers for BlueCard members are the prefix, the "suitcase" logo or the network acronym on the member ID card.



The PPO in a suitcase logo or PPO acronym indicates the member is enrolled in a Blue Plan's PPO or EPO product.



The PPOB suitcase logo or the PPO B product indicates the member has access to the exchange PPO network, referred to as BlueCard PPO basic.



The empty suitcase logo, or ID cards with TRAD, HMO, or POS product indicators, indicates the member is enrolled in a Blue Plan's traditional, HMO, POS or limited benefits product.

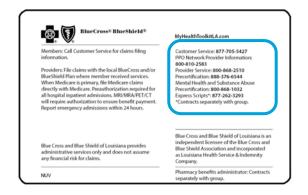


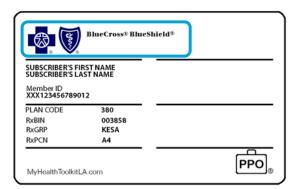
The BlueHPN suitcase logo or the BlueHPN name on the ID card indicates the member is enrolled in a Blue High Performance Network® (BlueHPN®) product.

#### **National Alliance**

#### (South Carolina Partnership)

- National Alliance groups are administered through Louisiana Blue's partnership agreement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina (BCBSSC).
- Our taglines are present on the member ID cards; however, customer service, provider service and precertification are handled by BCBSSC.
- Claims are processed through the BlueCard program.





This list of prefixes is available on iLinkBlue (www.lablue.com/ilinkblue) under the "Resources" section.

#### **Out-of-network Referrals**

The impact on your patients when you refer Louisiana Blue members to out-of-network providers:

- Out-of-network member benefits often include higher copayments, coinsurances and deductibles.
- Some members have no benefits for services provided by non-participating providers.
- Non-participating providers can balance bill the member for all amounts not paid by Louisiana Blue.

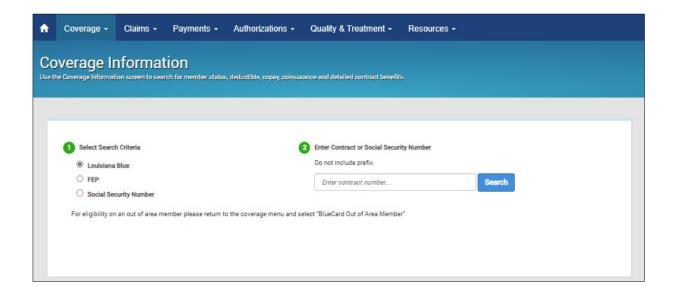


If a provider continues to refer patients to out-of-network providers, their entire fee schedule could be reduced.

### **Coverage Information**

Enter the member ID number to view coverage information for:

- Louisiana Blue members (including HMO Louisiana, Inc. members)
- Federal Employee Program (FEP)
  members. This section is not used for
  out-of-area members.



**Tips** 

- Louisiana Blue do not include the member's prefix
- FEP must include the letter "R"

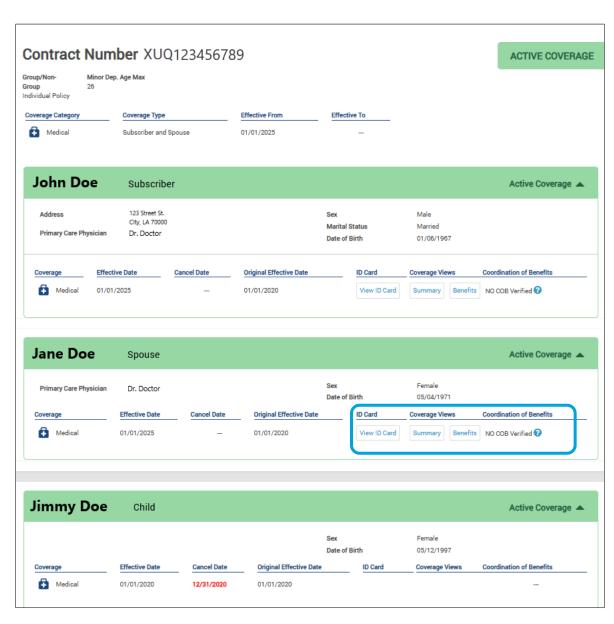


If you do not have the member ID number, search using the subscriber's Social Security number (SSN). iLinkBlue will return results with the member ID number. An error message will display if searching by a dependent's SSN. It must be the SSN of the policy holder.

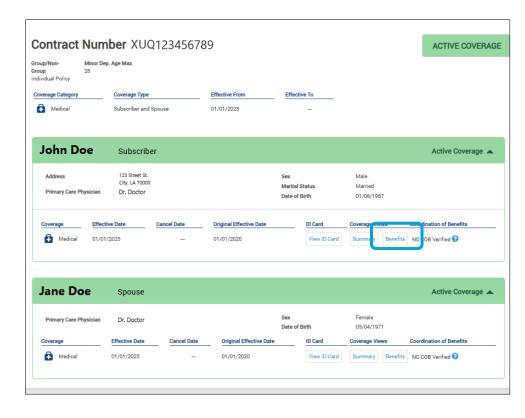
### **Coverage Information**

This screen identifies members covered on a policy, effective date and the status of the contract (active, pended, cancelled).

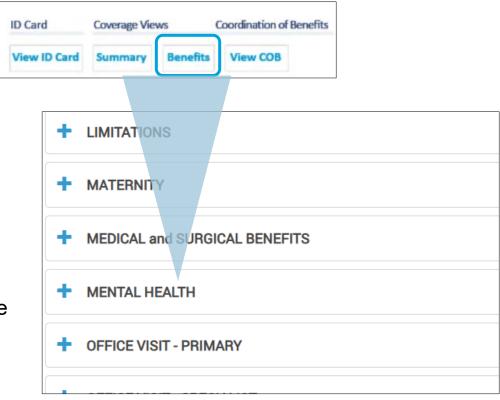
- The View ID Card button allows you to download a PDF of the member ID card.
- The Summary button allows you to view a benefit summary. It includes the member's cost share (deductible, copay and coinsurance) and remaining out-of-pocket amounts.
- The Benefits button allows you to view the coverage details of the member's benefits plan.
- The View COB button allows you to view coordination of benefits information.



#### **Behavioral Health Benefits**



Click on **Benefits** to open the list of services covered under the member's policy. Also be sure to verify limitations and exclusions, as benefits vary by policy.



### Digital ID Cards

Our members can also access their digital ID cards through:

#### **Smartphone or device**

Louisiana Blue has a mobile app that members can use. In the app, they will choose the "My ID Card" option (on the front page). Member's also have the option to save their ID card to their phone's wallet.

#### Louisiana Blue member portal

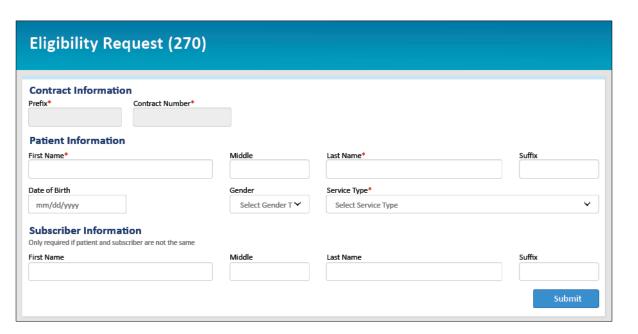
Our members can log into their online member account at www.lablue.com, then choose the "My ID Card" menu option.



### Coverage – Out of Area

Use this section to research coverage information for a BlueCard® (out-of-area) member. This is someone insured through a Blue Plan other than Louisiana Blue.

Submit Eligibility Request (270) – submit an electronic eligibility inquiry to the BlueCard member's Blue Plan. Enter the member's prefix (first three characters of the member ID number) and contract number.



### Eligibility Request (270)

To ensure proper benefits are returned when submitting Eligibility Requests (270), use the drop-down to select the most appropriate service type from the following code list:

1 Medical Care

2 Surgical

3 Consultation

4 Diagnostic X-Ray

5 Diagnostic Lab

6 Radiation Therapy

7 Anesthesia

8 Surgical Assistance

9 Other Medical

10 Blood Charges

11 Used Durable Medical Equipment

12 Durable Medical Equipment Purchase 42 Home Health Care

13 Ambulatory Service Center Facility

14 Renal Supplies in the Home

15 Alternate Method Dialysis

16 Chronic Renal Disease (CRD)

Equipment

17 Pre-Admission Testing

18 Durable Medical Equipment Rental

19 Pneumonia Vaccine

20 Second Surgical Opinion

21 Third Surgical Opinion

22 Social Work

23 Diagnostic Dental

24 Periodontics

25 Restorative

26 Endodontic

27 Maxillofacial Prosthetics

28 Adjunctive Dental Services

30 Health Benefit Plan Coverage

32 Plan Waiting Period

33 Chiropractic

34 Chiropractic Office Visits

35 Dental Care

36 Dental Crowns

37 Dental Accident

38 Orthodontics

39 Prosthodontics

40 Oral Surgery

41 Routine (Preventive) Dental

43 Home Health Prescriptions 19

44 Home Health Visits

45 Hospice

46 Respite Care 47 Hospital

48 Hospital - Inpatient 49 Hospital - Room and Board

50 Hospital - Outpatient

51 Hospital - Emergency Accident

52 Hospital - Emergency Medical

53 Hospital - Ambulatory Surgical

54 Long Term Care 55 Maior Medical

56 Medically Related Transportation

57 Air Transportation

58 Cabulance

59 Licensed Ambulance

60 General Benefits

61 In-vitro Fertilization

62 MRI/CAT Scan 63 Donor Procedures

64 Acupuncture

65 Newborn Care

66 Pathology

67 Smoking Cessation

68 Well Baby Care

69 Maternity

70 Transplants

71 Audiology Exam

72 Inhalation Therapy

73 Diagnostic Medical

74 Private Duty Nursing

75 Prosthetic Device

76 Dialysis

77 Otological Exam

78 Chemotherapy

79 Allergy Testing

80 Immunizations

81 Routine Physical 82 Family Planning

83 Infertility

84 Abortion

85 AIDS

86 Emergency Services

87 Cancer 88 Pharmacy

89 Free Standing Prescription Drug

90 Mail Order Prescription Drug 91 Brand Name Prescription Drug

92 Generic Prescription Drug

93 Podiatry

94 Podiatry - Office Visits

95 Podiatry - Nursing Home Visits

96 Professional (Physician)

97 Anesthesiologist

98 Professional (Physician) Visit - Office 99 Professional (Physician) Visit -

Inpatient

A0 Professional (Physician) Visit -

Outpatient

A1 Professional (Physician) Visit - Nursing BD Cognitive Therapy

Home

A2 Professional (Physician) Visit - Skilled BF Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Nursing Facility A3 Professional (Physician) Visit - Home BH Pediatric

A4 Psychiatric

A5 Psychiatric - Room and Board

A9 Rehabilitation

AA Rehabilitation - Room and Board

AB Rehabilitation - Inpatient AC Rehabilitation - Outpatient

**AD Occupational Therapy** AE Physical Medicine

AF Speech Therapy AG Skilled Nursing Care AH Skilled Nursing Care - Room and

Board

Al Substance Abuse AJ Alcoholism

AK Drug Addiction

AL Vision (Optometry) AM Frames

AN Routine Exam

**AO** Lenses

AQ Nonmedically Necessary Physical

AR Experimental Drug Therapy

**BA Independent Medical Evaluation** 

BB Partial Hospitalization (Psychiatric) BC Day Care (Psychiatric)

BE Massage Therapy

**BG Cardiac Rehabilitation** BI Nurserv

BJ Skin

**BK Orthopedic BL Cardiac BM Lymphatic** 

BN Gastrointestinal BP Endocrine

**BQ** Neurology BR Eye

**BS Invasive Procedures** 

BT Gynecological **BU Obstetrical** 

BV Obstetrical/Gynecological

BY Physician Visit - Office: Sick

BZ Physician Visit - Office: Well

CE MH Provider - Inpatient CF MH Provider - Outpatient

CG MH Provider Facility – Inpatient

CH MH Provider Facility - Outpatient

CI Substance Abuse Facility – Inpatient

CJ Substance Abuse Facility – Outpatient

CK Screening X-ray CL Screening Laboratory

CM Mammogram, HR Patient

CN Mammogram, LR Patient CO Flu Vaccination

DM Durable Medical Equipment

MH Mental Health PT Physical Therapy **UC Urgent Care** 



## Do I need an Authorization?





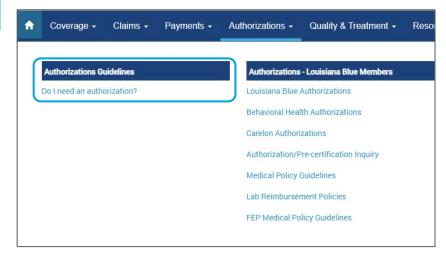
### Behavioral Health Authorization Requirements

#### Do I need an authorization?

There are two resources that can be used to research authorization requirements.

1

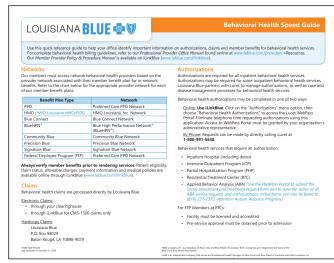
#### iLinkBlue's Authorizations Guidelines application



The same application is used for **both** Louisiana Blue and BlueCard (out-of-area) members. Enter the member's prefix (the first three characters of the member ID number) to access general pre-authorization/pre-certification information.

2

#### Behavioral Health Speed Guide



This guide provides details about our behavioral health policies, including the list of services that require prior authorization. It is available at <a href="https://www.lablue.com/providers">www.lablue.com/providers</a> >Resources >Speed Guides.

# Filing Claims



### Benefits of Filing Claims Electronically

Louisiana Blue strongly encourages the electronic submission of claims.



- Since editing begins prior to an electronic claim entering our processing system, electronic claims are less likely to be returned for additional information and are usually adjudicated more quickly than claims submitted via paper.
- Electronic submission also enables users to have same day access to their batch reports, which allows for quicker error resolution and expedites the overall revenue management cycle process.

# Timely Filing

#### Louisiana Blue, HMO Louisiana, Blue Connect, Community Blue, BlueHPN, Precision Blue & Signature Blue

Claims must be filed within 15 months (or length of time stated in the member's contract) of date of service.

#### **FEP**

Louisiana Blue FEP Preferred Provider claims must be filed within 15 months from date of service. Members/Non-preferred providers have no later than December 31 of the year following the year in which the service were provided.

#### **Blue Advantage**

Providers have 12 months from the date of service to file an initial claim.

Providers have 12 months from the date the claim was processed (remit date) to resubmit or correct the claim.

#### **OGB**

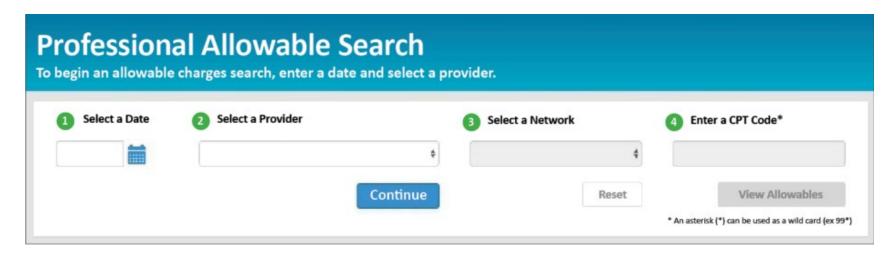
Claim must be filed within 12 months of the date of service.

Claims reviews including refunds and recoupments must be requested within 18 months of the receipt date of the original claim.

#### Self-funded and BlueCard

Timely filing standards may vary. Always verify the member's benefits, including timely filing standards, through iLinkBlue.

# Researching Allowables



Use iLinkBlue to view allowables for a single code or a range of codes.

#### Look up a single code:

Enter: 90833

Results: allowable for 90833 only

#### Look up a range of codes:

Enter:	Results:
908*	allowables for all codes beginning with 908
90*	allowables for all codes beginning with 90
9*	allowables for all codes beginning with 9



# **Submitting Claims**

#### **Electronic Transmission**

Louisiana Blue accepts electronic claims transmitted via HIPAA 837P and 837I submitted electronically through your clearinghouse.

We do not charge a fee for electronic transactions.

Providers can submit transactions directly to us or indirectly through a third-party clearinghouse.

For more information on how to submit electronic claims to Louisiana Blue, visit <a href="https://www.lablue.com/providers">www.lablue.com/providers</a> >Electronic Services >Clearinghouse Services.

#### or

#### **Hardcopy**

If it is necessary to file a hardcopy claim, we only accept original claim forms.

For Louisiana Blue, HMO Louisiana, Blue Connect, Community Blue, Precision Blue, BlueHPN, Signature Blue, OGB and BlueCard Claims:

#### Mail hardcopy claims to:

Louisiana Blue
 P.O. Box 98029
 Baton Rouge, LA 70898

#### For FEP Claims:

Louisiana Blue
 P.O. Box 98028
 Baton Rouge, LA 70898

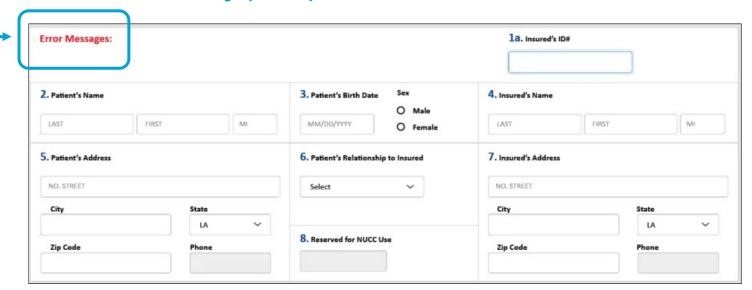


CMS-1500 (02-12)

# Submitting Claims in iLinkBlue

Louisiana Blue Professional Claims Entry (1500) – follows the format of the HCFA 1500 form R (02-12).

If the claim entry contains errors, the edits will be listed under the "Error Messages" section at the top of the screen.



When the claim is submitted and accepted, the provider will receive a confirmation message.

Claim for 12345678901; DOE, JANE has been submitted

The iLinkBlue 1500 Claims Entry Manual can be found on iLinkBlue under Resources.



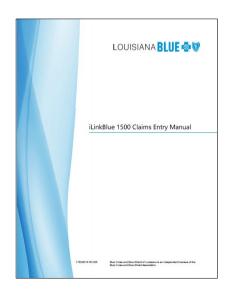
# Submitting Claims in iLinkBlue



If you click the **Submit Claim** button and are sent to the iLinkBlue login screen, you were logged out because of inactivity.

During claim entry, if you stop to research information like a diagnosis or procedure code, be aware that security features of iLinkBlue will log you out after 15 minutes of inactivity.

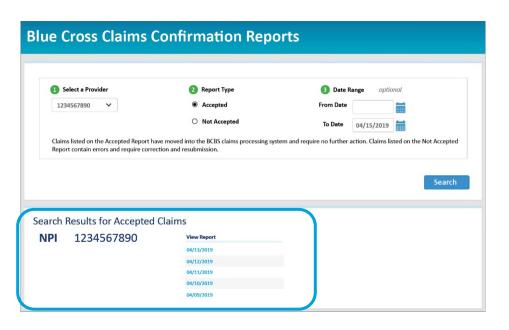
For complete instructions on using the 1500 Form claim entry application, view our *iLinkBlue 1500 Claims Entry Manual* available under the Resources menu in iLinkBlue.



## Louisiana Blue Claims Confirmation Reports

These reports allow providers to research Claims Confirmation for electronically submitted claims.

- Daily reports confirm if your claims submitted directly through iLinkBlue, billing agency or clearinghouse were accepted.
- Reports are available up to 120 days.
- The returned reports will display by date.



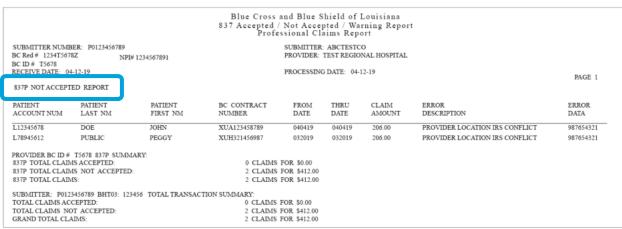
## Louisiana Blue Claims Confirmation Reports

Confirmation Reports indicate detailed claim information on transactions that were accepted or not accepted for processing. Providers are responsible for reviewing these reports and correcting claims on the Not Accepted report.

Accepted Report Example

Non-Accepted Report Example

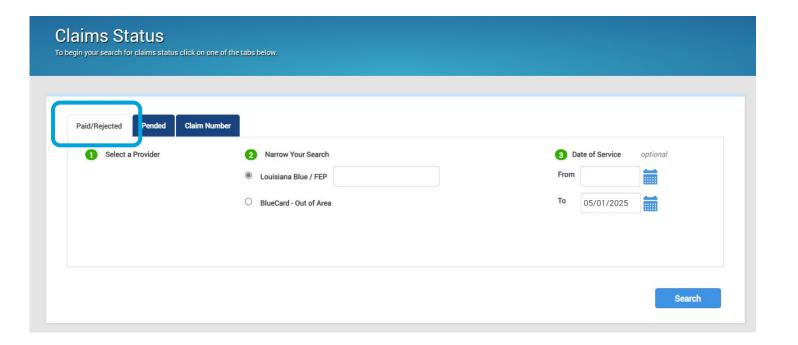




### Claims Research

Claims Status Search – research paid/rejected or pended claims. You can also search by claim number.

Research Louisiana Blue, FEP and BlueCard - Out of Area claims.



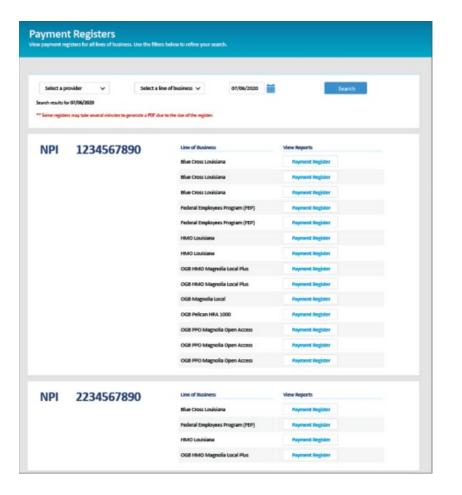
# Payment Information

# **Need a past EFT Notification/Payment Register?**

Use the **Payments** menu option in iLinkBlue to find your Louisiana Blue payment registers.

Weekly EFT notifications and payment registers are available to providers on Mondays, based on claims payments from the previous week.

Set the calendar feature in the search feature to the date of a Monday within the last two years. This allows you to see past EFT notifications or payment registers.



## Benefits of Proper Documentation









Allows identification of high-risk patients

Allows
opportunities to
engage patients
in care
management
programs and
care prevention
initiatives

Reduces the administrative burden of medical record requests and adjusting claims for both the provider and Louisiana Blue

Reduces costs associated with submitting corrected claims

# Provider's Role in Documenting

- Each page of the patient's medical records should include the following:
  - Patient's name
  - Date of birth or other unique identifier
  - Date of service, including the year
- Provider signature (must be legible and include credentials)
  - Example: John Doe, MD (acceptable)
  - Example: Dr. John Doe (not acceptable)
- Report ALL applicable diagnoses on claims and report at the highest level of specificity.
- Include all related diagnoses, including chronic conditions for member treatment.
- Medical records must support ALL diagnosis codes on claims.

Accuracy and specificity in medical record documentation and coding is critical in creating a complete clinical profile of each individual patient.

# Medical Record Requests

#### Medical Request Reminders:

- Per your Louisiana Blue network agreement, medical records should be provided at no cost.
- We will work with your copy center or vendor at no cost.
- Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, data collection for HEDIS® is permitted, and a release of this information requires no special patient consent or authorization.
- We appreciate your cooperation in sending the requested medical record information in a timely manner (ideally in five to seven business days).

#### Commercial Risk Score

- Code all conditions (acute/chronic) being treated to the highest level of specificity.
  - Monitored, Evaluated, Assessed or Treated should be noted
  - Avoid non-specific and broad statements such as bipolar disorder.
  - O Use terms such as:
  - Type I or II
  - Current or in remission
  - Severity (mild, moderate, severe)
  - Presence of psychotic features

NOTE: Improper documentation could result in audits and/or the request of medical records.





#### Commercial Risk Score

- Louisiana Blue identifies those members with potential diagnostic gaps by review of claims data
- Diagnostic gaps are identified through:
  - History: prior year Dx
  - Pharmacy: prescribed medication
  - Diagnostic: lab or diagnostic test
  - Other: diagnosis with potential co-existing condition

#### What can providers do?

- Close gaps in care.
- Ensure all documentation reflects what is being billed.
- Ensure chart reflects complete clinical profile for the patient.

## Risk Adjustment Data Validation Audits

Required through the ACA, the framework for the risk adjustment data validation (RADV) audit process for the risk adjustment program was established.

- Components of the RADV Audits:
- Annual CMS mandate
- Required audit for every insurer who sells a policy on the ACA marketplace.
  - Will be used to confirm risk reported.
  - To confirm providers' medical records, substantiate the reported data and accurately reflect the care rendered and billed.
- The Accountable Care Law mandates medical records be provided.
- RADV audit requests for medical records begin in June.

# Resolving Claim Issues



#### How Do I Correct or Void a Claim?

#### For professional claims submitted electronically through a clearinghouse:

Please follow the steps below to ensure your claims will not deny as duplicates or process incorrectly. You can ensure the accurate electronic (837I or 837P) submission by following the instructions below:



#### **Claim Adjustment**

- Enter the frequency code "7" in Loop 2300 Segment CLM05-03.
- Enter the 10-digit claim number of the original claim (assigned on the processed claim) in Loop 2300 in a REF segment and use F8 as the qualifier.
- Note: The adjusted claim should include all charges (not just the difference between the original claim and the adjustment).

#### **Void the Claim**

- Use frequency code "8" in Loop 2300 Segment CLM05-03.
- Use the 10-digit claim number of the original claim (assigned on the processed claim) in Loop 2300 in a REF segment and use F8 as the qualifier.

#### How Do I Correct or Void a Claim?

#### For professional claims submitted hardcopy or through iLinkBlue:

When a claim is refiled for any reason, all services should be reported on the claim.

#### **Hardcopy Claim**

- Claims that were previously processed on a CMS-1500 can be changed:
- Adjust Claim In Block 22, enter "7" for a claim adjustment (information or charges added to, taken away or changed).
- Void Claim In Block 22, enter "8" to request that the entire claim be removed, and any payments or rejections be retracted from the member's and provider's records.
- In Block 22, enter the original claim reference number.

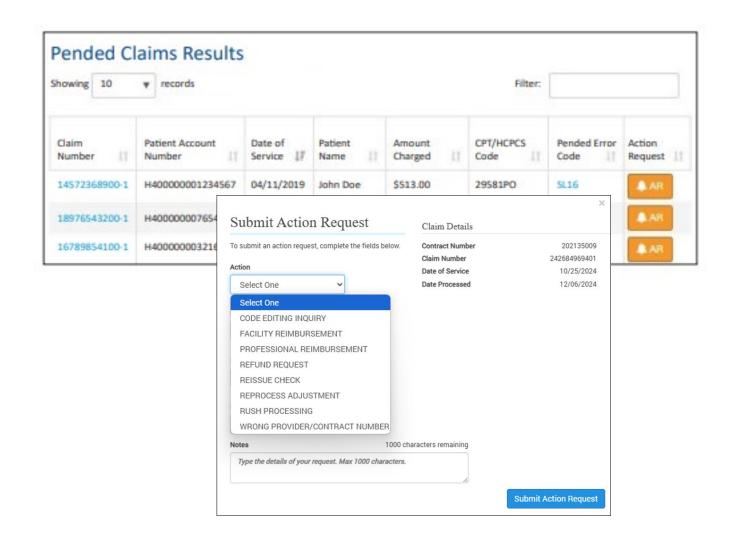
#### iLinkBlue Claim

- If submitting a corrected professional claim through iLinkBlue:
- In Field 19A, enter the applicable Professional Claim Adjustment/Void Indicator: A (Adjustment Claim) or V (Void Claim).
- In Field 19B, enter the Internal Control Number (ICN Number that is the original claim number).



For more information find our Submitting a Corrected Claim Tidbit at www.lablue.com/providers >Resources >Tidbits.

# **Action Requests**



#### When submitting an Action Request:

- Include your contact information.
- Be specific and detailed.
- Allow 10-15 working days for a response to each request.
- Check in Action Request Inquiry for a response.
- Only one Action Request can be open on the same claim at a time.





Action requests allow you to electronically communicate with Louisiana Blue when you have questions or concerns about a claim. We have recently added the following enhancements:

- The notes field allow up to 1,000 characters for users to better communicate their claim issue. The past limit
  was 250 characters.
- The Action Items drop-down list for reporting the type of issue has expanded from six to eight options. We have added "Facility Reimbursement" and "Professional Reimbursement" as options.
- iLinkBlue now add case ID numbers to each action request. Users can use these as a reference when searching for requests.
- Your action requests will load into our system for processing as soon as you submit. In the past there was a
  delay as action requests load into our system during nightly batch processing.





Users may notice some additional changes because of these enhancements.

- You can no longer edit or delete an action request once submitted.
- You cannot submit duplicate action request on the same claim.
- After submitting your request, you will receive a message asking for your confirmation to submit the action request. This is
  your final chance to make edits to your request before submitting.
- If you receive an error message after clicking submit, there may have been an issue with creating your request. Check the Action Request Inquiry search to verify it was created. If the request is not found in your search, please enter the request again.
- After transmitted, the action request Answer History will indicate the request was routed to group workflow case. This
  means the request entered our system for processing and is not a response to the request.

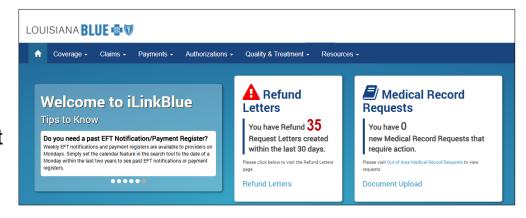
## Refund Request Letters

Providers now have access to electronic copies of Refund Request letters in iLinkBlue. The letters will be accessible for 24 months from their issue date. Letters created before August 21, 2024, are not available.

To search for a refund letter, enter any or all of the following criteria:

- Select a Provider Allows you to search by provider NPI.
   If no NPI is selected, search results will return letters for all the providers associated with your iLinkBlue access.
- Contract Number Allows you to search by a member's contract number.
- Claim Number Allows you to search by claim number.
   Note: Disregard letters are not generated with a claim number.
- Letter Creation Date Range Allows you to search by the date span Louisiana Blue created the letter. If no date range is entered, the returned results will list letters created within the last 30 days.

The returned search results will display below this application. Click on a "View" button to access PDF copies of the refund or rationale letters. Note: Rationale letters, if applicable, may display a day after the refund letters.



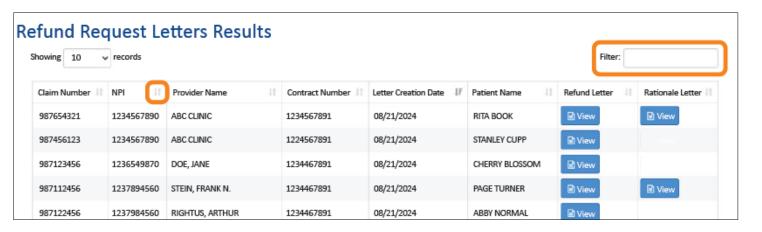


## Refund Request Letters

The Refund Request Letters Results grid displays key information that is extracted from letters:

- Claim Number Identifies the claim the letter is associated with. This field will remain blank for refund letters created with multiple claim numbers.
- NPI Lists the NPI number of the provider or clinic the letter is associated with.
- Provider Name Identifies the provider addressed in the letter. Note: Letters are created in the practitioner, clinic or facility name.
- Contract Number Identifies the member ID number the letter is associated with.
- Letter Creation Date Lists the date Louisiana Blue created the letter.
- Patient Name Identifies the patient the letter is associated with.

Use the **Filter** search function to narrow the displayed results. Use the **Sort** function by the column headers to display results in ascending or descending order.



### Have an Issue with a Claim?

Sometimes a provider may need find an issue with a claim. It is best to **first inquire about the claim**, then if necessary, submit a formal request.

Louisiana Blue classifies formal requests into three different categories:

Claims Disputes	Medical Appeals*	Administrative Appeals and Grievances*
<ul> <li>Involves a denial that affects the provider's:</li> <li>Reimbursement, including bundling issues</li> <li>Timely filing</li> <li>Authorization penalties</li> <li>Refund disputes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Involves a denial or partial denial based on:</li> <li>Medical necessity, appropriateness, healthcare setting, level of care or effectiveness</li> <li>Determined to be experimental or investigational</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Claim issue due to the member's contract benefits, limitations, exclusions or cost share</li> <li>When there is a grievance</li> </ul>

<sup>\*</sup>Medical and administrative appeals forms can be found on our website at www.lablue.com and clicking Forms and Tools at the bottom of the page.

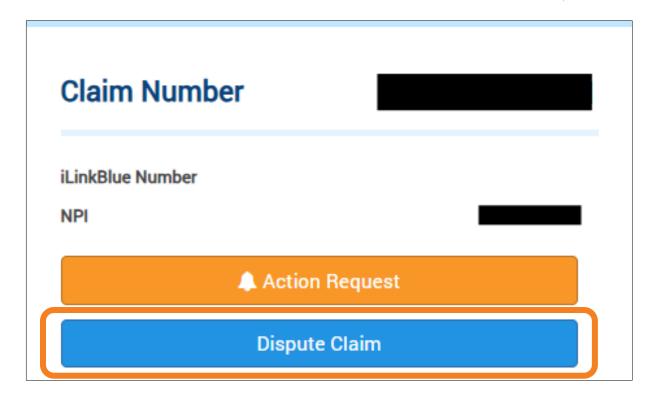
# Provider Disputes Form Online



**Effective Dec. 1**, Louisiana Blue will no longer accept disputes via document upload or fax.

Clicking on a claim number in the Paid/Rejected Claims Search will open the Claim Detail summary page for that processed claim.

Beginning Dec. 1, we will add a "Dispute Claim" button to the Paid/Rejected Claim Detail screen. Click the button to open the dispute form. The button will be on claims with a paid date less than 2 years prior to the current date.



# Telehealth



# Telehealth Policy

- Follow the telehealth billing guidelines in the provider manual.
- Fully document the telehealth encounter in the patient's medical record adhering to the criteria listed in the expanded telehealth guidelines.
- Coverage is subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of each individual member contract and policy.
- Louisiana Blue adheres to the rules and regulations outlined by the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners regarding telehealth prohibitions.



For more information about our telemedicine requirements, billing and coding guidelines, see our *Professional Provider Office Manual* at www.lablue.com/providers >Resources >Manuals.

# Appropriate Place of Service (POS)



- Use POS 10 for all direct to consumer (DTC) telehealth services.
- Bill non-DTC telehealth with the appropriate place of service based on the member's location when services are provided.
- For example, if the member is in the inpatient hospital setting when receiving telehealth services, bill POS 21.



- Do not bill POS 02 for telehealth services; Louisiana Blue does not consider POS 02 valid for claims submission. Claims billed with POS 02 may reject.
- Louisiana Blue will not reimburse telehealth services for HCPCS codes 0362T or 0373T due to their complexity requiring a face-to-face encounter.

We define DTC telehealth as telehealth services delivered directly between the provider and patient in their home environment (e.g., residence, workplace, personal space, etc.).

### **Telemedicine Codes**

The following codes can be used for "Direct-to-consumer" telemedicine — when the telemedicine encounter occurs directly between provider and patient.

# **Direct-to-consumer**

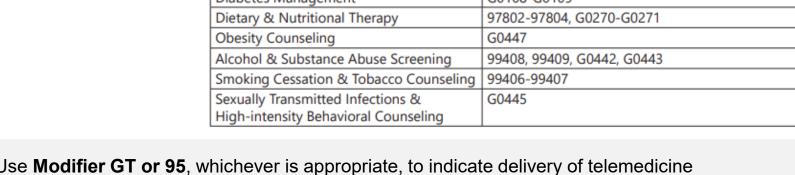
Codes listed below with an asterisk (\*) may be billed as audiovisual

telehealth services only. All other listed codes

audiovisual or audioonly telehealth services.

can be billed as





Use **Modifier GT or 95**, whichever is appropriate, to indicate delivery of telemedicine services in real time. Use **Modifier 93** for audio-only telehealth services.

# Other Billing Guidelines



# Provisional Billing/Incidentto

"Incident-to" reimbursement rules for providers types that are eligible to participate in our network are as follows:

- If network participation is available for a provider type, then that provider type is required to file claims under their own provider number.

  Services should not be billed under a supervising provider.
- Providers who are considered by Louisiana Blue to be intraining (residents, students and providers with provisional licensure) are not eligible to bill incidentto services.

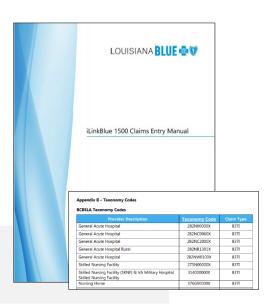
# **Taxonomy Codes**

If you file multiple specialties under your NPI number, it is very important to also include the appropriate taxonomy code that clearly identifies the specialty.

You must file the code for the services on the authorization from Louisiana Blue.

Failure to use a specific taxonomy code will cause payment to be directed to the wrong sub-unit, be paid incorrectly and/or may cause the claims to reject on the Not Accepted Report.

Taxonomy Codes can be found in our *iLinkBlue 1500 Claims Entry Manual* available under the Resources menu in iLinkBlue.



# Part 2 Regulations 42 CFR Part 2

- Providers and facilities are responsible for making sure they are in compliance with 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 2 regulations regarding the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records.
- Abiding by the part 2 regulations includes the responsibility of obtaining appropriate consent from patients prior to submitting substance use disorder claims or providing substance use disorder information to Louisiana Blue. Louisiana Blue requires that patient consent obtained by the provider include consent to disclose information to Louisiana Blue for claims payment purposes, treatment, and for healthcare operations activities, as provided for in 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2, and as permitted by the HIPAA regulations. 42 CFR part 2, section 2.31(a) (1-9) stipulates the content that must be included in a patient consent form. By disclosing substance use disorder information to Louisiana Blue, the provider affirms that patient consent has been obtained and is maintained by the provider in accordance with Part 2 regulations. In addition, the provider is responsible for the maintenance of patient consent records.
- Providers should consult legal counsel if they have any questions as to whether or not 42 CFR part 2 regulations are applicable.

# **HEDIS®**

(Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set)



# Follow-up After Hospitalization

HEDIS® (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set) is an annual performance measurement created by the NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance) to help improve quality of healthcare and establish accountability.

One measure is ensuring patients who have had inpatient treatment for mental illness have a follow-up visit with a behavioral health professional within seven calendar days of discharge.

- Louisiana Blue tracks appointments made within seven days but also wants patients to attend those appointments.
- Patients who attend these scheduled follow-up appointments are less likely to **readmit** into inpatient treatment.

## Help Us Meet the Measure

#### Behavioral health professionals can:

- Schedule patients within seven calendar days of discharge from an inpatient stay.
- These appointments can be made with psychiatrists, psychologist, psychiatric nurse practitioners, social workers (LCSW), counselors (LPC), marriage and family therapist (LMFT) or addiction counselors (LAC).
- If you are an established provider for a patient, it is best practice to conduct a follow-up appointment within seven calendar days of discharge.
- Allow Louisiana Blue staff to schedule appointments for members on their behalf, if needed.

Check benefits on iLinkBlue. Some plans waive any out-of-pocket expense for first visit within seven days of discharge from inpatient level of care.

## How to Increase Appointment Attendance

- Provide appointment reminders:
  - Include the time, date and location.
  - Please be sure to provide a return phone number and/or email address along with a contact person for the member to speak with for any questions, concerns and assistance.
  - Offer multiple options, such as text, email or voicemail for appointment reminders.
- Clearly explain your no-show policy and the member's responsibility.
- When an appointment is missed, reach out to the member as soon as possible to reschedule.
- Initiate discussion to find out what works best for the member.
- When possible, have a set schedule with the member (for example, every other Monday at 3 p.m.).

As a contracted provider with Louisiana Blue, you are only allowed to collect copay and/or deductible amounts at time of service.

Verify benefits with Louisiana Blue prior to appointment.

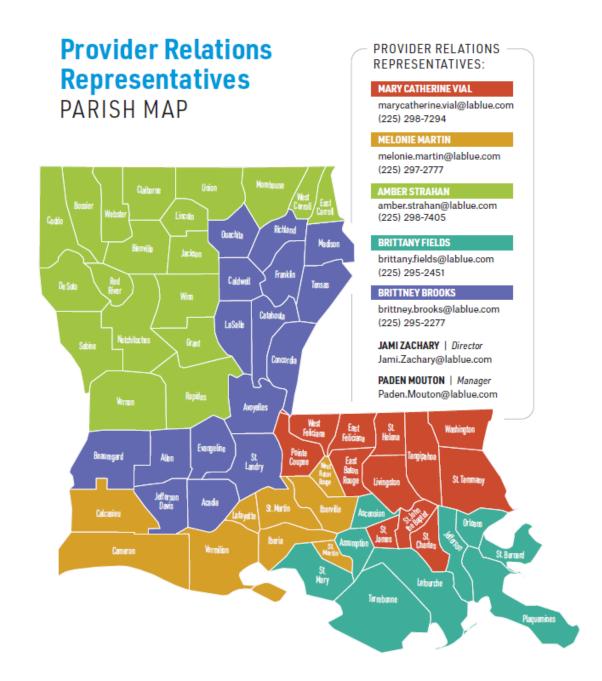
## We are here for you!



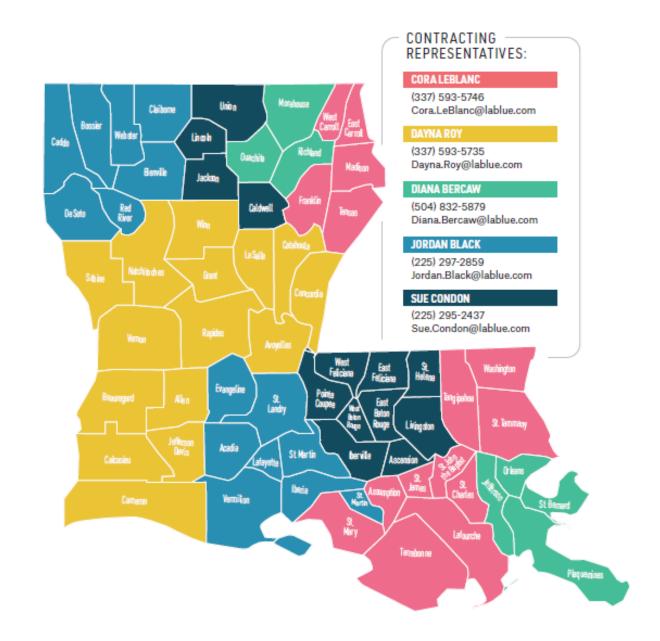
We will be hosting Behavioral Health **Authorization** Webinars in December, Look for registration information in future Weekly Digests.



# Provider Relations Representatives



# Provider Network Development Representatives



### **Quick Contacts**

### **Joining the Network**

Getting Credentialed – PCDMstatus@lablue.com, 1-800-716-2299, option 2 Getting Contracted – provider.contracting@lablue.com, 1-800-716-2299, option 1

### **Updating your Information**

Data Management – PCDMstatus@lablue.com, 1-800-716-2299, option 2

### **Education, iLinkBlue Training and Outreach**

Provider Relations – provider.relations@lablue.com, 1-800-716-2299, option 4

#### **Electronic Services**

iLinkBlue – www.lablue.com/ilinkblue

EDI Services (clearinghouse) – EDIservices@lablue.com, 1-800-716-2299, option 3 Security Access to Online Services – PIMteam@lablue.com, 1-800-176-2299, option 5

### **Ongoing Support**

Customer Care and IVR Phone Services - 1-800-922-8866

## LOUISIANA BLUE

**Questions?** 

## LOUISIANA BLUE

# Thank you!

# Appendix



## Accessing iLinkBlue

Need access to iLinkBlue?

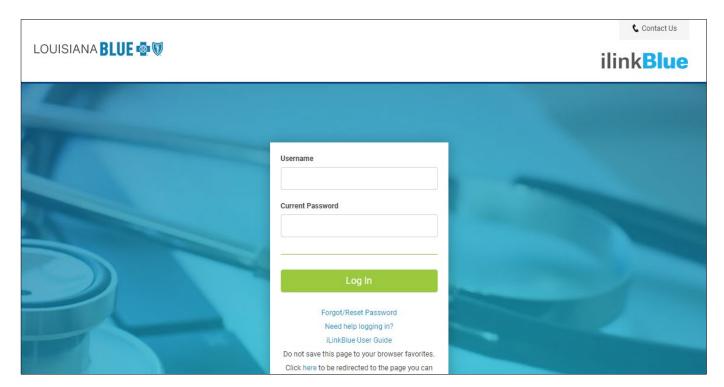
#### My organization has an administrative representative?

- Reach out to your organization's administrative representative to request access.
- The administrative representative will use the Delegated Access application in iLinkBlue to set up your appropriate level of security access to iLinkBlue.
- Deeper levels of security include secure authorization applications. This access is granted through your organization's administrative representative.

## My organization does not have an administrative representative?

- Self-designate at least one administrative representative at your organization.
- Complete the Administrative Representative Registration Packet. It is available online at www.lablue.com/providers >Electronic Services >Admin Reps.
- Contact our Provider Identity Management (PIM) Team at PIMteam@lablue.com or 1-800-716-2299, option 5 with questions.

## Accessing iLinkBlue



### Logging in for the first time:

- Password must be reset.
- Click on the "Forgot/Reset Password" button.
- Follow the prompts, enter your username and click the "Request Password" button.
- The system will send you an email to reset your password. Click on the link in the email.



## Behavioral Health Authorization Requirements

Below is the list of authorization requirements.

Authorizations are required for all inpatient behavioral health services and may be required for some outpatient behavioral health services:

- Inpatient Hospital (including detox)
- Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
- Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP)
- Residential Treatment Center (RTC)
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

#### For FEP Members at RTCs:

- Facility must be licensed and accredited
- Pre-service approval must be obtained prior to admission

FEP does not allow review for medical necessity if the member is admitted to RTC prior to requesting authorization.

Requirements vary based on the member's policy. Please always verify benefits prior to rendering services.



### **Telemedicine**

Reimbursement for telemedicine services is available when provided utilizing your own telemedicine platform.

Provider types performing telehealth services must ensure the delivery of telehealth is within their respective scope and guidance of their relevant licensing and/or certifying boards.

Encounters must be performed in real time using audio-only or audiovisual telecommunication systems.

Audio-only telehealth visits must meet the criteria outlined in Section 5.37 of our Professional Provider Office Manual.

The following are examples of services that are not eligible for reimbursement as telemedicine services:

- Non-direct patient services (e.g., coordination of care before/after patient interaction).
- Services rendered by text-only telephone communication, facsimile, email, mobile applications or any other non-secure electronic communication.
- In many cases, telehealth is not separately billable during the same episode of care that an in-person service is provided.
- Triage to assess the appropriate place of service and/or appropriate provider type.
- Services not eligible for separate reimbursement when rendered to patient in-person.
- Patient communications incidental to E&M, counseling or medical services covered by the member's policy.
- Presentation/origination site facility fee.
- Services/codes that are not specifically listed in the provider manual.