



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

March 11, 2015

The Honorable John A. Alario, Jr., President
Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

The Honorable Charles E. Kleckley, Speaker
Louisiana State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

The Honorable David Heitmeier, Chairman
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

The Honorable Scott Simon, Chairman
House Health and Welfare Committee
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

Re: SCR 62 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session

Dear President Alario, Speaker Kleckley and Honorable Chairs:

Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 62 by Senator Mills and Representative Barrow, the Department of Health and Hospitals (henceforth the Department) submits this report on Medicaid coverage of the Tdap vaccine for pregnant women.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *2013 Final Pertussis Surveillance Report*, Louisiana reported 214 cases of pertussis in 2013. While below the national average of 9.1 cases per 100,000, Louisiana's 4.6 cases per 100,000 in 2013 is nearly triple its 1.6 cases per 100,000 in 2012. Louisiana is not alone in seeing an upward trend in pertussis cases. Pertussis case counts in the United States frequently exceeded 100,000 cases per year until the introduction of pertussis vaccines in the 1940s. Reports declined dramatically to fewer than 10,000 by 1965. During the 1980s pertussis reports began increasing gradually, and by 2013 more than 28,000 cases were reported nationwide.

To help reverse this trend, the CDC and state public health agencies continue to promote the use of the Tdap vaccine to prevent pertussis. In addition, in October 2012, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that healthcare personnel administer a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy to protect both the mother, the baby and family members in close contact. State Medicaid programs, as the primary source of health care coverage for low income pregnant women and infants, have taken note of this recommendation.

Although Louisiana Medicaid does not provide coverage of the Tdap vaccine under its Fee For Service program, access to the service for pregnant women is provided through its Bayou Health Managed Care Organizations (MCO). All Medicaid-eligible pregnant women are mandatorily enrolled in Bayou Health MCOs. Under the MCO model, health plans have the flexibility to use Per Member Per Month capitation rate payments to provide enrollees with services not covered under Fee For Service Medicaid. Leveraging this flexibility, all Bayou Health MCOs voluntarily

provide the Tdap vaccine to pregnant women, effectively ensuring access to the service for pregnant women enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid at no additional cost to the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy H. Kliebert".

Kathy H. Kliebert
Secretary

cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee
The Honorable Members of the House Health and Welfare Committee
Senator J.P. Morrell
David R. Poynter Library