

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS  
CORRECTIONS SERVICES**

**Health Care Policy  
No. HC-02**



**14 September 2009**

**HEALTH CARE CO-PAYMENT**

1. **REFERENCES:** ACA Standard 4-4345 and La. R.S. 15:831B.(2) and Department Offender Posted Policy (DOPP) #031 "Access to Health Care and Clinical Services."
2. **PURPOSE:** To provide appropriate health care, based upon need, without regard to financial status, while minimizing frivolous complaints.
3. **POLICY:**
  - A. Access to health care services shall be available to all offenders regardless of their ability to pay; however, abuse of sick call strains available resources making it difficult to provide appropriate care for offenders with legitimate health care needs. It is the Department's policy that abuse of the health care system can be minimized by restricting frivolous complaints through a health care co-payment program that includes the following features:
    - 1) All offenders are advised, in writing, at the time of admission to the institution of the guidelines of the co-payment program;
    - 2) Needed offender health care shall not be denied due to a lack of available funds;
    - 3) Co-payment fees shall be waived when appointments or services including follow-up appointments are initiated by healthcare staff.
  - B. Health care co-payments are designed to be access fees for the initiation of healthcare services for an illness or injury, including medical or dental treatment received at a public hospital operated by the Louisiana State University System.
  - C. Health care co-payments are not to be confused with restitution. Restitution is imposed for various disciplinary infractions, including malingering. Therefore, health care co-payments and restitution are not mutually exclusive. Offenders may still be subject to disciplinary action for

malingering and restitution may continue to be assessed by disciplinary boards whether a health care co-payment has been assessed or not.

- D. No offender shall be refused medical, mental health or dental services and prescription or other drugs necessary for basic health care because of financial status. Offenders with insufficient funds to pay the assessed fee at the time of collection shall be charged all current funds available in their drawing and savings account and will owe the difference, which will be reflected as a debt in the offender's drawing and savings account.
- E. Offenders shall be charged a \$3.00 fee for each request for healthcare services made during regularly scheduled sick call times. A \$3.00 fee for mental health services may be charged if circumstances warrant. All emergency health care encounters shall be assessed a \$6.00 medical co-payment. No fees shall be charged for any referral or scheduled return visits resulting from the initial request until released from care by the health care provider or designee. No offender shall be charged for any contact that is scheduled by the Warden or the Warden's designee (i.e. healthcare staff.) Additionally, no fees shall be charged for any contacts that are originated by the Department or the institution.
- F. Offenders shall be charged a sum of \$2.00 for each new prescription written and dispensed with the exception of psychotropic medications and medications prescribed for public health reasons. Orders for prosthetics are prescriptions; therefore, the \$2.00 fee shall be charged for each order or repair. There shall be no charge for refills or renewals of prescriptions where the effects of the illness or injury are chronic or long-term. "Over-the-counter" non-prescription medications may be handled in the same manner as prescription medication or through the canteen, as long as procedures are in place for timely delivery and for indigent offenders.
- G. Offenders shall not be charged for the following (except as stipulated by other policy or statute):
  - 1) Annual physicals and health assessments for transfers;
  - 2) Lab work;
  - 3) X-rays;
  - 4) Immunizations, tuberculosis testing, Hepatitis B vaccine, and other treatments instituted by the institution for public health reasons;
  - 5) Initial assessments at Reception and Diagnostic Centers. (However, requests for treatment of conditions identified in the health assessment may be subject to co-payment at the Reception and Diagnostic Center or the receiving unit);

**Health Care Policy No. HC-02**

**14 September 2009**

**Page Three**

- 6) EKGs, dressing changes and other treatments ordered by a qualified health care provider;
  - 7) Prenatal care;
  - 8) Physician or mid-level practitioner referral to outside agencies or institutional specialty clinic (e.g. chronic clinic);
  - 9) Work related injuries or illnesses (as determined by the Warden or designee);
  - 10) When the fee is waived by the Warden or designee;
  - 11) Social service programs provided by mental health staff (e.g. substance abuse groups.)
- H. The Request for Medical Treatment (Form HC-01-A) shall be utilized for the co-payment draw slip.
- I. All funds collected by Allen Correctional Center and Winn Correctional Center shall be forwarded to the Department in accordance with instructions from the Undersecretary.

s/James M. Le Blanc  
Secretary

This policy supersedes Health Care Policy No. HC-02 dated 01 August 2002

Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS

GOVERNOR

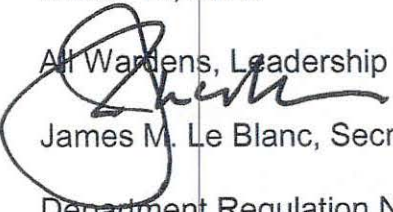


JAMES M. LE

SECRETARY

Date: March 16, 2020

To: All Wardens, Leadership Team

From:  James M. Le Blanc, Secretary

Re: Department Regulation No. IS-D-HCP14 "Health Care Co-Payment"

Due to the national emergency health concerns created by COVID-19 and in the interest of ensuring efficient and expedient access to care for all persons housed in state prison facilities state, effective March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, I hereby wave the co-pay fee requirements for inmate healthcare services established in Section 2.E. of Department Regulation No. IS-D-HCP-14.

This waiver shall be in effect for a period of 30 days unless otherwise expressly extended.

Department of Public Safety & Corrections  
State of Louisiana

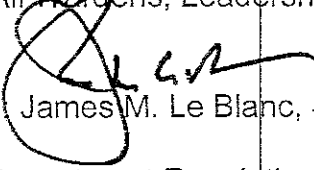
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JAMES M. LE BLANC  
SECRETARY

DATE: April 16, 2020

TO: All Wardens, Leadership Team

From:  James M. Le Blanc, Secretary

Re: Department Regulation No. IS-D-HCP14 "Health Care Co-Payment"

Due to the national emergency health concerns created by COVID-19 and in the interest of ensuring efficient and expedient access to care for all persons housed in state prison facilities, which was effective March 16, 2020. I hereby extend the waiver of co-pay fee requirements for inmate healthcare services established in Sections 3.E of Department Regulation No. IS-D-HCP-14.

This waiver shall be in effect until May 31, 2020 unless otherwise expressly extended.