

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.

On September 14, 2021, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) released [Informational Bulletin \(IB\) 21-18](#), updating its genetic testing policy to include genetic counseling.

Effective October 18, 2021, in alignment with LDH policy, ABHLA requires that genetic counseling be provided to members both before and after all genetic testing.

Genetic counseling must be documented in the member's medical record and, at a minimum, must include the following elements:

- Obtaining a structured family genetic history;
- Genetic risk assessment; and
- Counseling of the beneficiary and family about diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

When performed by licensed genetic counselors, services are reimbursed using the procedure code specific to genetic counseling. Reimbursement for this service is "incident to" the services of a supervising physician and is limited to no more than 90 minutes on a single day of service.

When performed by providers other than licensed genetic counselors, an applicable evaluation and management (E&M) code must be used.

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.

