



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON
COMMISSIONER

January 8, 2016

RE: IRO and URO Annual Report Notification

Due Date: March 1, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

On January 1, 2015, the Internal Claims and Appeals Process and External Review Act which sets forth Louisiana's internal and external review statutes became effective. See, La. R.S. 22:2391 through 22:2453 which was enacted by 2013 Louisiana Act Number 326. Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2443 and Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) Regulation 103, both an Independent Review Organization (IRO) and a Utilization Review Organization (URO) are required to file an annual report (report) of its program activities with the LDI. The report information must reflect activity from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The report is due on March 1, 2016.

The report forms and directions will be placed on the LDI's website by the end of January 2016 at the following link: <http://www.lidi.la.gov/regulatoryforms>. Separate reports are required for each URO and each IRO. The report can be completed electronically and e-mailed to hbuckley@ldi.la.gov or a hard copy can be mailed to the attention of Holly Buckley, Office of Health Insurance, Louisiana Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214.

Please note that the Office of Health Insurance will only accept 2015 Annual Report submissions on the spreadsheets provided. Failure to do so will result in a disapproval of the report and a possible sanction as set forth in La. R.S. 22:2453.

As a reminder, La. R.S. 22:821(B)(36) and La. R.S. 22:821(B)(37) requires any licensed URO and IRO, other than a health insurance issuer, to pay a filing fee in the amount of \$500.00 at the time of filing its report. As such, if applicable, please include a check in the amount of \$500.00 made payable to the Louisiana Department of Insurance with your report. The completed report and the filing fee must be received by the LDI no later than March 1, 2016.

Due to changes to the internal claims and appeals process and external review process required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Louisiana laws concerning Medical Necessity Review Organizations (MNROs) that were located at La. R.S. 22:1121 to 1144 were repealed by 2013 Louisiana Act Number 326 and replaced with the Internal Claims and Appeals Process and External Review Act. Enactment of the Internal Claims and Appeals Process and External Review Act caused MNROs to cease to be authorized entities. As a result of the change in the entities authorized to conduct internal claims and appeals and external reviews in Louisiana law, it was the obligation of a MNRO licensed and operating

in Louisiana to become a licensed or authorized URO and to utilize the review processes required by 2013 Louisiana Act Number 326 as of January 1, 2015.

Should you have questions, please contact Holly Buckley at the Office of Health Insurance at hbuckley@ldi.la.gov or by calling (225) 219-0773.

Sincerely,

Alecia Johnson

Alecia Johnson

Office of Health, Life and Annuity Insurance