PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID

DATE: MARCH 24, 2025

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

Teleconference Phone Number: 614-721-2972

Teleconference PIN: 981046042#

ONLINE MEETING LINK (MICROSOFT TEAMS): Join the meeting now.

IN-PERSON LOCATION: ROOM A401, LAZARUS GOVERNMENT CENTER

50 WEST TOWN STREET COLUMBUS, OH 43215

Pursuant to Chapter 119. and section 5164.02 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) gives notice of ODM's intent to consider the amendment of the rule identified below and to hold a public hearing on this rule.

Rule 5160-6-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), "Eye care services," sets forth coverage and payment policies for vision care services, vision care materials, low-vision aids, and ocular protheses.

As a result of the enactment of Sub. H.B. 509 (134th G.A.), Chapter 4725. of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) no longer provides for ocularist licenses. No new ocularist license will be issued and no expiring ocularist license will be renewed after December 31, 2024. The reference to the ORC has therefore been removed from the rule, and a rule-specific definition of 'ocularist' has been supplied.

ODM will hold the public hearing for this rule package via teleconference and in person. ODM will not require protective masks for individuals attending in person. However, visitors are welcome to wear masks if they prefer to do so.

The date and time for the public hearing are listed at the top of this Notice as well as the phone number, PIN (access code), link for teleconference attendance, and location for in-person attendance.

All interested parties are invited to participate in the public hearing. Both oral and written testimony will be accepted for this hearing and will be given the same consideration. Persons who want to give oral testimony are asked to send a message by e-mail to rules@medicaid.ohio.gov no later than one hour before the hearing to be added to the witness list. Those attending in person can be added to the witness list at the hearing. There will be a final call at the end of the hearing for persons who wish to offer oral testimony but whose names are not yet on the witness list.

Written comments submitted by e-mail, postal mail, or fax that are received or postmarked no later than the day of the hearing will be accepted as testimony and will become part of the hearing record. All testimony will become public record; therefore, ODM asks that protected health information (PHI) be excluded unless the information belongs to the person submitting the testimony or to a person for whom the submitter is a legal guardian. Written testimony sent by e-mail is highly recommended. All persons who submit testimony by e-mail will be sent a confirmation of receipt.

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A copy of the proposed rule is available, without charge, to any person at the following locations:

Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 West Town Street, Suite 400, Columbus, OH 43215 or On the internet at http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rule, as well as testimony on the rule, may be submitted in any of the following ways:

By mail to the Rule Administrator, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, Ohio Department of Medicaid, 50 West Town Street, Suite 400, Columbus, OH 43215-3414;

By fax to (614) 995-1301; or

By e-mail to rules@medicaid.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid is committed to facilitating access, promoting inclusion, and providing reasonable accommodation in its services, activities, programs, and employment opportunities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, and other applicable laws. To request an interpreter, written information in a language other than English or in a certain format (braille, large print, audio, accessible electronic format, other format), or a reasonable accommodation because of a disability, please contact ODM's Civil Rights/ADA Coordinator at least three business days before the scheduled hearing.

Phone: 614-995-9981 Voice / 711 TTY

Fax: 614-644-1434

E-mail: <u>ODM_EEO_EmployeeRelations@medicaid.ohio.gov</u>

If you believe that ODM has failed to provide these services or has discriminated in another way, you can file a grievance with ODM's Civil Rights/ADA Coordinator or Section 1557 Coordinator, file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, or both. Further information about these processes and ODM's compliance with civil rights laws and other applicable laws is available on the ODM website at *Notice of Nondiscrimination*.