

February 2021

#### OVERVIEW:

Per the Louisiana Department of Health's [Health Plan Advisory 20-6 \(Revised 2/4/21\)](#), ABHLA will resume all hospital-based utilization management (UM) for all medical hospitalizations including, but not limited to, initial service authorizations and concurrent reviews on admissions beginning March 1, 2021.

To minimize disruption to hospitals, ABHLA will conduct post-payment reviews of medical hospital stays during the COVID-19 event period *only* with the approval of and in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health.

Hospitals must continue to notify ABHLA about enrollee admissions so that the Plan can assist with discharge planning where possible. To maximize beds available for patients with COVID-19, hospital-based staff should be dedicated to facilitating rapid placement and discharge of currently hospitalized patients. ABHLA will lift service authorizations for services such as home health and skilled nursing facility services where necessary to ensure a safe discharge.

#### Questions and Support:

For questions, please contact [LAProvider@AETNA.com](mailto:LAProvider@AETNA.com) or call 1-855-242-0802 and follow the prompts.