

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

INPATIENT HOSPITAL PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Pending CMS approval and effective for dates of admission on or after January 1, 2016, the Department is proposing a cost neutral update to the Medicaid and PeachCare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). DCH proposes to update to a more current Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) Classification System and to adjust the associated DRG specific weights and outlier thresholds.

The Department currently reimburses inpatient hospital claims using a DRG per case rate based on the Tricare DRG Version 30. However, the federally mandated October 1, 2015 transition to the International Classification of Diseases #10 (ICD-10) system necessitates that the Department update to an ICD-10 based DRG system. ICD-10 is a coding of diseases, signs and symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the World Health Organization (WHO). The code set allows more than 14,400 different codes and permits the tracking of many new diagnoses. The current Tricare Grouper Version 30 is ICD-9 based. As a result, using an ICD-9 based system in an ICD-10 environment could result in claims mapping to higher cost DRGs which in turn increases cost to the state. Therefore, the Department will update to Tricare DRG Version 33.

This public notice is available for review at each county Department of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **November 23, 2015**, at **10:30 a.m.**, at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **November 30, 2015**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Comments submitted will be available for review by the public at the Department of Community Health, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Room 4074, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **December 10, 2015** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015
Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner