

**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.

**NURSING FACILITY SPECIAL VENTILATOR-DEPENDENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES**

Effective for services provided on and after November 13, 2009, and subject to payment at fee for service rates, the Department is proposing to make the following changes to Medicaid reimbursement for Nursing Facilities that provide specialized care to long-stay ventilator-dependent patients who can appropriately be transferred from acute care hospitals:

1. Establish a nursing facility payment rate of \$463.87 for specialized ventilator-dependent residents that will be in effect until June 30, 2012. The per diem will increase annually on January 1 by an annual inflation factor.
2. Utilize the services of the Department’s Medical Management Contractor to identify long-stay, ventilator-dependent, patients in acute care hospitals that have reached the outlier threshold or who may be at risk of reaching the outlier threshold.
3. Incorporate the findings of the Medical Management Contractor in hospital discharge planning to ensure appropriate transfers to nursing facilities that are capable of providing care to ventilator-dependent residents.

These changes are made for the purpose of implementing §70.20 of the FY 2010 appropriations bill (HB 119).

<u>Program</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
All Programs	(\$10,840,881)	(\$3,800,000)

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 30, 2009**, 1 p.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, 2009**, 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, 2009**, 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, 2009**

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner