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.

DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL (DSH) ALLOCATIONS FOR PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Effective for DSH payment adjustments made on or after May 14, 2009, the Department of Community Health is proposing to make the following change to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments for private hospitals.

For private hospitals that meet federal DSH eligibility criteria but that are not considered "deemed" (as determined by Social Security Act Section 1923(b) criteria), payments will be made commensurate with available state matching funds made specifically available via the annual Appropriations Act, but in an amount not to exceed 100% of the calculated allocation amounts as determined by steps 1 through 7 of Section (III)(B) of the current DSH state plan (TN No. 07-016).

The purpose of this change is to more accurately match payments to the level of funding that is made available in the annual Appropriations Act. This change is estimated to be budget neutral as any savings in payments to private hospitals can be reallocated to public hospitals or redistributed in subsequent years to all hospitals.

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 **May 26, 2009**, 1:00 p.m., at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the Fifth 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 **June 4, 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 **June 11, 2009** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the **June 11, 2009** 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 Fifth Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14th DAY OF MAY, 2009

Rhonda M. Medows, M.D., Commissioner